



Coronavirus & Cancer Treatment

An information sheet for consumers and the community

Should I avoid the doctor if I need a cancer check-up or health advice?

Do not avoid seeing the doctor right now. Call your doctor and seek advice about your individual risks and options for maintaining cancer check-ups and medical tests. If you're particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, your doctor might suggest a telehealth consultation or nominate a different treatment centre for you to attend, safeguarding you against exposure to spread of the disease.

It's vitally important that you continue with your routine cancer check-ups and medical tests.

If you have any questions about your vulnerability, call your GP and ask about how to manage your personal risks, and keep following the advice of health authorities.

What is a novel coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). *Novel* coronavirus is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. The virus causes the respiratory disease known as COVID-19 (COroNaVIrus Disease 2019). Symptoms include fever, coughing, a sore throat and shortness of breath. The virus can spread from person to person, but good hygiene can prevent infection.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The common signs include a fever (37.3°C or higher), cough, sore throat, fatigue, or shortness of breath.

If you have any of these symptoms, phone your doctor or state health service immediately and seek advice.

What can I do to protect myself?

To protect yourself and others from infection practice good hand and respiratory hygiene including:

- Clean your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or flexed elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid contact with anyone who has symptoms such as fever, a cough, sore throat, fatigue, and shortness of breath.
- If you have to go out to buy groceries or medicine, stay at least 1.5 metres away from others, and especially anyone who has symptoms.
- Stay home and follow the advice of authorities.

How could I become infected with novel coronavirus?

Novel coronavirus is transmitted from person to person, usually when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

If you begin to exhibit any symptoms such as fever, a cough, sore throat, fatigue, and breathing difficulties, then you should contact your GP or call your local or state health authority.

If you need support, we're here to help!

There is still much we don't know about COVID-19 and the impact it will have on our community. It is clear, however, that men living with prostate cancer and their families need our help more than ever. Please [donate](#) today to keep our work alive and [call us on 1800 22 00 99](#) for help or email enquiries@pcfa.org.au.