

# COVID-19 & Cancer Resources



People with cancer are at [increased risk of severe illness](#) from the COVID-19 virus.<sup>1</sup> Cancer patients who get chemotherapy are more likely to get an infection.<sup>2</sup> Chemotherapy weakens the immune system. This may lead to more severe illness.<sup>2</sup>

The pandemic has also affected cancer screening rates in Texas and across the nation. Since the start of the pandemic, cancer screenings in the U.S. dropped by 86% for colon cancer. And they dropped 94% for breast and cervical cancers.<sup>3</sup>

DSHS compiled this resource list to help improve cancer screening rates in Texas.

This includes:

People getting treatment for cancer | Cancer survivors | Caregivers | Healthcare providers | Public health professionals

## Resources for the Public

**American Cancer Society** – [Cancer Screening During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Encourages you to talk with your healthcare provider about staying up to date with cancer screenings during the pandemic.

**National Cancer Institute** – [Coronavirus: What People with Cancer Should Know](#)

List of questions and answers about what people with cancer should know about COVID-19.

**Centers for Disease Control** - [Staying Well While Staying at Home: A Guide for Cancer Patients and Their Caregivers and Family Members](#)

Tips to help cancer patients, as well as their family members and caregivers, stay healthy while staying home.

**George Washington Cancer Center** - [Tips for Coping with COVID-19: A Resource for Cancer Survivors and Caregivers](#)

Resources to help cancer survivors and their caregivers. They share information about staying as healthy as possible mentally, physically, and financially during the pandemic.

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## Resources for Health Professionals

### American Cancer Society – [Guidance on Cancer Screening During COVID-19](#)

Screening and vaccination guidance during the pandemic. Their guidance is for:  
Breast | Colorectal | Cervical | Lung cancers | Human papillomavirus (HPV)

### American College of Radiology – [Lung Cancer Screening Resumption of Screening Toolkit](#)

Toolkit on safely doing lung cancer screening. It includes quick reference guides, letter templates, and a patient safety infographic.

### Centers for Disease Control – [Preventing Infection in Cancer Patients: Educational Materials](#)

Materials are available for both COVID-19 and other types of infections.

### National HPV Roundtable - [Promising Practices for Adolescent Vaccination During COVID-19: Insights from Key Vaccination Stakeholders](#)

This resource summarizes stakeholder discussions held in July 2020. It has promising practices. The discussions focused on the impact of COVID-19 on adolescent vaccination rates.

### National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable - [Reigniting Colorectal Cancer Screening as Communities Face and Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Playbook](#)

An action-oriented playbook. It has:

Colorectal cancer screening | COVID-19-related data | Research | Clinical guidelines

A sample screening reminder letter for primary care providers is also available.

## Contact Information

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<sup>1</sup> Certain Medical Conditions and Risk for Severe COVID-19 Illness. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html). Reviewed February 3, 2021. Accessed February 3, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Staying Well While Staying at Home. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [www.cdc.gov/cancer/survivors/staying-well-at-home.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/survivors/staying-well-at-home.htm). Reviewed March 26, 2020. Accessed February 3, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Mast, C., & Munoz del Rio, A. Delayed Cancer Screenings—A Second Look. Epic Health Research Network. [ehrn.org/articles/delayed-cancer-screenings-a-second-look](https://ehrn.org/articles/delayed-cancer-screenings-a-second-look). Published July 17, 2020. Accessed February 3, 2021.

