

CANCER AND CORONAVIRUS

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Stop cancer becoming the ‘forgotten C’

At Macmillan, we speak to people with cancer day in day out. We’ve been told that thousands of cancer treatments have been **changed, delayed or cancelled**. We’ve heard about severe **money worries** from people already hit by the financial impact of cancer. We know that the **emotional impact** of the outbreak is taking its toll on people already struggling.

Even in a time of crisis, decisions must be made for cancer patients *with* cancer patients. Without **action now**, we’re storing up serious problems for the future.

That’s why we are calling on the Government to **stop cancer becoming the ‘forgotten C’**. We want to see urgent action to:

Ensure people with cancer can continue to access treatment safely

- Make sure people with cancer symptoms continue to contact their GP.
- Give people with cancer access to the treatment they need with local NHS providers adhering to guidance to maintain urgent cancer services.
- Protect cancer professionals from further redeployment to the coronavirus response to reduce future treatment and care backlogs.
- Implement solutions for maintaining continuity of cancer care, like establishing clean hubs with the required equipment, testing and staff.
- Publish a coronavirus response cancer plan to ensure that services and treatment return to normal as quickly as possible after the pandemic.

Address the immediate concerns of people with cancer during the pandemic

- The core values of personalised care and dignity at end of life must be respected and prioritised.
- Give all “shielding” and “self-isolating” cancer patients the right information and support, including access to priority online grocery shopping and financial services relief measures.