



Making Cancer History®

April 3, 2020

Dear Scripps MD Anderson Cancer Center Patients,

We want our community of cancer patients and their families to be well informed and therefore continue providing updates from Scripps MD Anderson Cancer Center. Confronting cancer is one of the most stressful events in life and to do so during this COVID-19 pandemic significantly exacerbates this stress. Please note that our care team is here for you. We want to assure you that we are committed to providing you the very best multidisciplinary care and will always have your best interest in mind when making challenging decisions forced upon us by this crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many hardships for both patients and Scripps MD Anderson staff. Our priority is patient, physician and staff safety. Accordingly, we want to prevent transmission of the virus by limiting physical interactions when possible. We have now deployed tele-health visits conducted through the MyScripps portal. We have used this successfully now for hundreds of appointments and the process has gone relatively well. If you are scheduled for a routine follow-up after treatment it is likely that this appointment will be changed to a tele-health visit. In addition, some first-time consultations can also be done remotely and decrease the number of times that you need to come to the Cancer Center or hospital.

We are encouraged that to date we have continued all scheduled radiation and chemotherapy treatments without interruption. Surgical treatments are being assessed on a case by case basis to determine the urgency of the procedure and the availability of our facilities. We appreciate your understanding and encourage you to work with your surgical team to decide the optimal timing of a cancer-related surgery.

Finally, we want you to stay safe. Please adhere to guidelines and recommendations that limit your possible exposure to the virus. Practice social distancing. If your immune system is being adversely affected by a cancer treatment, we recommend isolating yourself as much as possible. In addition, clean your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, and be certain you are current on all your appropriate vaccinations (seasonal influenza, pneumonia, pertussis, and shingles). Further recommendations for high risk individuals can be found at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov). If you develop respiratory symptoms and/or a fever, please contact your care team.

Thank you for entrusting us with your cancer care. We care deeply about you and will be working with you to get through this challenging period.

Scripps MD Anderson Cancer Center Providers