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European Cancer Patient Coalition



An open letter on COVID-19 - Together we can learn from each other

An unprecedented change in our lives has taken place over the last few months. The coronavirus pandemic has challenged how many of us live day-to-day and has created an undeniable strain on our health services. Our governments across the globe have called on us to collectively work together, to limit the spread of the virus and protect those around us.

The European Cancer Patient Coalition understands the additional worry placed on cancer patients, their carers and families at this time. Navigating the world of cancer treatment and recovery, while also being faced with a potentially life-threatening virus is an incredibly difficult situation to be in and ECPC supports anyone experiencing this challenge.

As Europe's largest umbrella cancer patient association with over 450 members across EU and non-EU states, ECPC strives to provide information and support for our members and the larger cancer community. This inspired the creation of our Covid-19 Web Hub, which is dedicated to factual resources from health associations and our members organisations.

in the University Hospital of Ioannina, Greece and translated into 16 different languages. We have added information from organisations dealing with specific cancers such as the [Transforming Breast Cancer Together Initiative](#), who provide information for breast cancer patients who may be experiencing delays in treatment due to the outbreak.

We are also currently preparing a survey to map the situation in various countries regarding Covid-19 and cancer patients to get a specific idea on how this is affecting those in treatment. As an umbrella association, it is important we stay proactive and informed through our members on how the situation is being handled in EU Member States in regards to cancer patients and survivors.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we are stronger, so let's keep sharing and learning from each other, through this crisis and beyond.

Stay safe and take care,

ECPC Team and Antonella Cardone,

Director of the European Cancer Patient Coalition

Please share your Information on Covid-19 and Cancer Care

ECPC would like to request any information or data our members currently have on the impact COVID-19 has had on the cancer care sector in their respective countries.

We would like to kindly ask you whether you can provide any information on specific problems as well as on the most stretched sectors, including which kind of support might be envisaged to respond at short, medium and long term. This with the view to explore potential mechanisms and instruments to help Member States to respond to the challenge.

This information will be shared in a webinar chaired by The European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) on **April 28th. We realise this is a short time frame, but please share any helpful information you have to** paula.kenny@ecpc.org

Thank you.

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