



St. James's Hospital HOPE Directorate

Advice to patients attending the Haematology/ Oncology day centre

The effectiveness of the Covid-19 vaccine may be lower in those who are immunosuppressed (reduced immune system), including people with cancer. There are a lot of people attending the Haematology/ Oncology day centre (HODc) that are highly immunosuppressed and will have little or no protection from the vaccine.

In order to protect you and everyone attending we are continuing to screen all patients prior to admission to HODc.

Do not attend your appointment if any of the below statements apply to you, instead please call telephone triage on 01-4284745 or your Clinical nurse specialist. You will then be assessed by phone and advised what to do. This applies to all patients irrespective of your vaccination status.

- If you are **anyway unwell** even if it is treatment related.
- If you are a **close contact** of a confirmed positive Covid-19 case.
- If anyone in your **house hold is showing signs of Covid-19** or are **awaiting a test result.**
- If anyone in your **house hold is a close contact** of confirmed positive Covid-19 case.
- If you have recently returned from **International travel.**

Patients with cancer are advised to follow HSE advice on reducing their risk of exposure to Covid-19. Specific advice is available on the HPSC website <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/peopleatincreasedriskofsevereillness/othersatincreasedriskofsevereillness/Guidance%20For%20Older%20People%20and%20Others-Reducing%20COVID-19%20Exposure%20Risk.pdf> for those at increased risk of severe illness from Covid-19 due to an underlying health condition.

We ask that you review this advice and begin to take additional precautions from two weeks before your treatment commences.

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