



**Ontario Health**  
Cancer Care Ontario

# Smoking may increase your risk of COVID-19

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## COVID-19, smoking and your cancer treatment

- COVID-19 affects your lungs, chest and many other parts of your body.
- When you inhale cigarette smoke, chemicals damage your lungs and other parts of your body, making it harder for you to fight viruses like COVID-19.
- Cancer treatments, such as surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy can weaken the immune system, which helps your body fight infections. This puts you at higher risk for getting sick with infections, such as COVID-19.
- There is a risk of a worse outcome if you contract COVID-19 when you have a diagnosis of cancer.
- Quitting smoking can improve your ability to fight viruses like COVID-19 and help your cancer treatment work better

**Talk to your healthcare provider about how to quit smoking or stay smoke free.**

**It's never too late to quit**