ESMO’S REQUEST TO MEMBER STATES

A Call to Action

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COVID-19 VACCINATIONS AND PATIENTS WITH CANCER: VACCINATE. MONITOR. EDUCATE.
AN ESMO CALL TO ACTION

COVID-19 state of play*

- 87m cases and 1.9m deaths

New cancer cases (2020) **

- 19.3m cancer cases with 4.4m in Europe

Potential post-pandemic effects

The after-effects of the pandemic may lead to delayed and accumulated diagnoses of new cancer cases, as well as occurrence of preventable cases, impacting on mortality in the coming years.

*Last checked: January 07, 2021
** Source: IARC
IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON PATIENTS WITH CANCER

- High risk of developing severe form of COVID-19 and death
- Pausing, stopping or never starting anticancer treatment due to the SARS-CoV2 infection
- Fear of contracting the virus
- Halting or limiting regular checkups and monitoring

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CANCER

The lack of regular screening to prevent new cancer cases and the resulting difficulties in patient adherence to treatment due to COVID-19 will lead to an influx of cases in the coming years.
ESMO’S REQUEST TO MEMBER STATES
Supported by the oncology community

In the context of the Member States developing their vaccination strategies, the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO), a scientific society representing over 25,000 oncology professionals would like to request the Member States to consider the following:

1. **VACCINATE ALL CANCER PATIENTS**
   in line with the WHO principles aiming to reduce deaths and disease burden. Patients with active disease or receiving anticancer treatment deserve an additional priority in case of limitations only.

2. **Diligently Collect Data**
   via suitable registries, in order to monitor the effects of the vaccines in the vulnerable population, including patients with cancer and immune response monitoring.

3. **Educate and Instil Confidence**
   among the public and patients in receiving the vaccines and provide them with up-to-date information in lay language.
As healthcare professionals and patient advocacy organizations representing cancer patients and their families, our aim is to work together to ensure that WHO’s first principle is adhered to: to reduce deaths and disease burden and protect those who most need protection.

*Being updated on a rolling basis
VACCINATE. MONITOR. EDUCATE.

Thank you.

Note: The Call to Action and all relevant documents will be available on the ESMO website after this meeting.