



## ESMO Statement

74th World Health Assembly, 24 May – 1 June 2021

### Agenda item 17: WHO's work in health emergencies and strengthening preparedness for health emergencies

Honourable Chair, Esteemed Delegates,

The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) is a global network of more than 25,000 cancer professionals from over 160 countries.

Addressing a global pandemic requires multi-stakeholder collaboration and the pooling of knowledge and resources because no one organisation or country can tackle such an enormous challenge alone.

ESMO welcomes the Resolution on 'Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies' and encourages WHO to leverage resources developed by professional societies. For cancer, ESMO's 'COVID-19 and Cancer Portal' provides recommendations for the management of cancer patients, a patient guide, educational resources, webinars, and a data collection registry. The 'ESMO Call to Action on COVID-19 Vaccinations and Patients with Cancer' was endorsed by over 50 professional and patient organisations and requests Member States consider in their vaccination strategies to:

1. **Vaccinate all cancer patients** in line with WHO principles and objectives. Patients with active disease or receiving anticancer treatment deserve an additional priority in case of limitations only.
2. **Diligently collect data** via suitable studies and registries to monitor the effects of vaccines in the vulnerable population, including patients with cancer and their immune response.
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.

ESMO is proud to support and contribute to WHO's global efforts and to build back better.

Thank you.