

Press Release

November 9, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: Lung Cancer and COVID-19

The American Lung Association has declared November as Lung Cancer Awareness Month. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), smoking leads to disease and disability and harms nearly every organ system of the body. It is the leading cause of preventable death. Treatments are improving, but lung cancer still kills more men and women than any other type of cancer. In the United States, more than 7,300 nonsmokers die each year from lung cancer caused by secondhand smoke.

Cancer patients need to take special precautions in light of COVID-19. People with cancer, people who are in active cancer treatment, older patients, and people with other serious chronic medical conditions, such as lung disease, diabetes, or heart disease, are at higher risk for the more severe form of COVID-19 that could lead to death. Recent data have shown that people with active or progressing cancer may be at higher risk than those whose cancer is in remission. The same rules apply for people with cancer as for those without cancer: Be sure to wash your hands well, and wash them frequently. Avoid touching your face, and avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased risk of exposure to the virus by going out in public, most hospitals and clinics have changed their visitation policies. Some may allow 1 visitor per patient, and others may allow no visitors. A patient's cancer care team may switch to telemedicine appointments. If a cancer patient has tested positive for COVID-19 their health care team will consider the risks and benefits of restarting cancer treatment despite the positive test. Some treatments, especially those that do not impair the immune system, may be able to continue, especially if you have tested positive for the virus but do not have symptoms or have only mild symptoms.

As of now there are no cures for COVID-19. Scientists are working hard to develop and test treatments for COVID-19. Researchers and physicians have developed clinical trials to find effective treatments for this disease. Clinical trials for potential COVID-19 treatments are now open in many locations in the United States and in other countries. If cancer patients have been diagnosed with the coronavirus disease they can join a clinical trial to help scientists find the most effective and safe treatment for the illness. The Beat19 study, the NCI COVID-19 in Cancer Patients Study (NCCAPS), and a study at Stanford,

for example, are designed to collect symptoms from people who may have COVID-19 to help researchers learn the course of the disease and help find a treatment. Remdesivir, an antiviral medication, may be helpful in treating COVID-19 infections. The drug received an Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA on May 1 and became the first FDA-approved treatment for COVID-19 on October 23, 2020. Remdesivir is approved for patients with COVID-19 who require hospitalization. It may decrease time spent hospitalized but does not prevent death.

The American Lung Association is a voluntary health organization whose mission is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. For more information please visit www.lung.org.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a federal agency that conducts and supports health promotion, prevention and preparedness activities in the United States, with the goal of improving overall public health. To learn more about the CDC please visit www.cdc.gov.

To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition or visit SAFE's website to learn more about the COVID-19 Epidemic and its correlation to increased mental illness, alcohol and substance use at www.safeglencove.org.