



**THE SOCIETY OF GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY OF CANADA AND OVARIAN CANCER CANADA  
PRESENT THEIR JOINT STATEMENT TO PATIENTS**

Dear patients,

We understand that this is a very stressful time for our patients and their families. There are a lot of unknowns and many of you will be concerned about how COVID-19 will affect your cancer care. We are here to reassure you, that despite the pandemic, your gynecologic oncology care team will be there for you.

It is critical that we keep you healthy throughout this pandemic. Our approach to care has consequently changed to ensure your ongoing health and safety. Our goal is to keep healthy people out of hospital. You have probably already seen some of the changes in our care delivery. We are transitioning to delivering care remotely, when it is appropriate, so we'll be touching base over the phone or over videoconferences. If you are unwell and it is unrelated to COVID-19 the same mechanisms are still in place to ensure you get prompt and excellent care.

We do need to acknowledge that some very challenging decisions will be made during this pandemic that may profoundly affect your care. These tough decisions are not made lightly and reflect the drastic change in demand on our healthcare system. Some changes to your care may be necessary to ensure your safety and well-being. These changes (chemotherapy, radiotherapy or surgery), will be discussed with you by your physicians if required. It may mean delaying chemotherapy starts or pushing back surgery dates until COVID-19 has resolved.

As we all self-isolate to try to flatten the curve and reduce the number of COVID-19 infections, we are all distancing ourselves physically from the people and activities that provide much needed mental and emotional support. This is particularly challenging when living with a cancer diagnosis. But please remember you can continue to connect online, by phone or through video calls with loved ones and your support team. Psychologists and social workers at your cancer centre are still available, as always, to help you get through these challenging times. Do not hesitate to contact your local Cancer Care team to connect. And Ovarian Cancer Canada has many virtual supports and resources, available and you can speak directly with a Regional Director to answer your questions and hear about any challenges you may be experiencing during the COVID-19 crisis.

***We invite you to visit [www.ovariancanada.org](http://www.ovariancanada.org) to connect.***

As always, your team will discuss all options with you to ensure you understand your situation. We continue to advocate for timely access to resources to expedite your care with our Provincial governments. Rest assured that we will continue to support you and your family during these unprecedented times.

Keep well!

Sincerely,

Your pan-Canadian Gynecologic Oncology care team and Ovarian Cancer Canada