

# Fever

## Information for Patients on Cancer Treatment

Cancer treatments increase your risk of infection. Chemotherapy kills fast-growing cells. This includes cancer cells, but also the cells in your blood that help you fight off an infection. The number of these cells decreases after treatment, so an infection becomes more serious.

Check your temperature any time you feel unwell after your treatment, since a fever can be a sign of an infection.

- Ask your nurse which thermometer is best to buy
- Do not eat or drink anything cold or hot before checking your temperature

To keep yourself safe:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Clean cuts on your skin with soap and water
- Stay away from crowded places and sick people
- Stay away animal droppings (poo), soil, raw meats, raw fish, and soft cheeses
- Wear a mask in public
- Cook your food to a safe temperature
- Ask your healthcare team about what vaccines to get

## What about Tylenol®?

- If you have a fever, do **NOT** take Tylenol®. Go to your nearest Emergency Department, and tell the nurse that you are on cancer treatment
- If you take Tylenol® for other reasons, check your temperature before taking Tylenol® as Tylenol® may mask a fever
- Avoid taking Advil® unless your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist has told you to

You may be given medications before, during, or after your treatment to increase the number of infection-fighting cells in your body. Your healthcare team will tell you if this is part of your treatment plan.

Go to your nearest **Emergency Department** if your temperature is:

- Above **38.3°C (100.9°F)** at any time
- Above **38.0°C (100.4°F)** for over 1 hour

Even if you do not have a fever, you may still have an infection and should go to your **Emergency Department** if you have:

- Chills or shaking
- Sweating that is more than normal
- A new cough or cough with sticky green-yellow fluid
- A burning feeling when peeing or peeing more often
- Redness, heat, swelling, or fluid coming from a wound on your body or a medical device