

# COVID-19 and Cancer Research

Provide \$10 billion for NIH to restart  
cancer research & clinical trials



## COVID-19 Impacts Cancer Research

The impact of COVID-19 on the cancer research ecosystem is severe and relief is needed to ensure that labs and researchers can restart their operations once it is safe to do so. Federal assistance is essential to re-open labs and re-start clinical trials, so we do not lose any of the progress we have made in the fight against cancer. Congress can help create tomorrow's cures and protect many more Americans from cancer, starting with its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Re-Start Stalled Cancer Research & Clinical Trials

Researchers in every state have been forced to suspend many laboratory activities for their own personal safety and to comply with social distancing guidelines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, many labs have donated safety supplies to healthcare facilities to address shortages. According to a recent survey of grantees by the American Cancer Society COVID-19 has halted the work of over half of its grantees. The closure of many research facilities is impacting trainees, technicians, early-stage investigators, and established investigators alike, preventing the research workforce from maintaining momentum toward better prevention, treatments, diagnostics, and cures for cancer, and other diseases.

Disruptions also extend to those patients on clinical trials. Individual trial sites are struggling to safely facilitate continued care for already enrolled patients, new enrollments are frozen, and new trials are delayed indefinitely. The most immediate effects will be felt by the patients taking part in these trials. Since clinical trials and the broader drug development process can take years to realize, the full effect of this disruption on therapeutic innovation in cancer care is likely to be felt for years to come without aggressive measures to mitigate the disruption.

Substantial costs have been incurred shutting down projects, and there will be significant costs for the eventual ramp-up of research activities once again. We therefore urge Congress to provide the NIH with all it needs to ensure that the research ecosystem is restored, and we continue to make progress in the fight against cancer and other diseases.

**Will you support \$10 billion for the National Institutes of Health  
to restart research and clinical trials?**