



IMPACT REPORT

Komen COVID-19 Action Fund

In This Moment, We're Stronger Together



In this uncertain time, I want to begin with a heartfelt thank you. Though this pandemic is unprecedented and confusing, we are all in this together, and together we will make it through. While the world continues to change, our mission remains the same – to save lives by meeting the most critical needs in our communities and working to prevent and find the cures for breast cancer.

As always, Susan G. Komen is making supporting those affected by breast cancer our top priority. On behalf of all of us at Komen and all those we serve, thank you for your generous support of our **COVID-19 Action Fund** which has allowed us to continue providing vital services to this vulnerable community.

Thanks to you and many others, more than \$3 million has been secured to date since the fund was established on March 30, 2020.

Although much has been done, our work is far from over. **Breast cancer does not stop for COVID-19, and we know it will continue to affect millions of Americans once this epidemic is over.** Together, with your support, we will unite researchers, caregivers, advocates, survivors and all women and men affected by this disease to stand as one, fighting to save lives.

On behalf of the entire breast cancer community, we say thank you.

Sincerely,
Paula Schneider
President and CEO

A special thanks to our corporate partners for their generous donations:



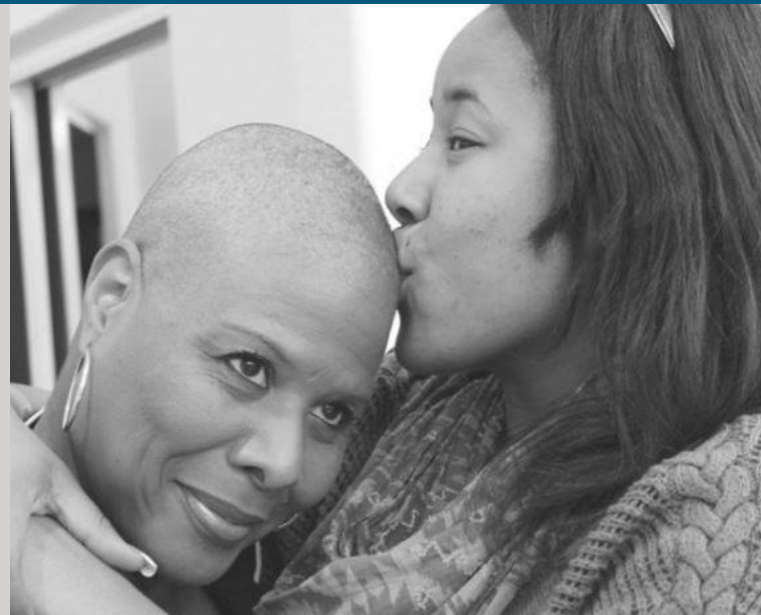
COVID-19 AND BREAST CANCER

In addition to the uncertainty of this awful virus, there is the added tragedy that **over 279,000 women and men in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year.** These individuals, and those already living with the disease, are unsure whether to continue, stop or delay treatments. Should they stay home and limit their exposure to coronavirus? Or, proceed with their treatment anyway?

Nearly everyone will be impacted in some way by the dire economic implications of the current crisis. Many of the families we serve are operating with no financial cushion. Layoffs, furloughs or postponed jobs result in a loss of income and/or health insurance for these vulnerable individuals already living on the financial edge. The economic consequences are further compounded as lawmakers understandably redirect tax dollars to much needed COVID relief efforts. We are very concerned that many cancer related safety net services will be left unfunded or underfunded for years to come.

Equally troubling is the toll the pandemic will have on our research enterprise and patient quality of life. Even after the world returns to “normal,” Komen’s Scientific Advisory Board recently highlighted their concerns about some of the long-term consequences we will face such as:

- Shuttered scientific labs and hiring freezes across the country that will mean fewer jobs over the next several years for young doctors and scientists who will be integral to finding cures.
- Poorer patient outcomes as millions delay tests, like routine mammograms, considered crucial for detecting early signs of disease.
- Changes to treatment plans or delays for needed surgeries as providers are “drafted” to serve on the front lines and treatment centers previously devoted to serving individuals with cancer are transformed into ICUs for COVID patients.
- Decreases in the overall number of clinical trials, making it difficult for patients to join new trials and especially devastating for the metastatic breast cancer community who is running out of options and desperately needs new therapies.



And finally, as we suspected, and can now confirm, based on findings presented at the 2020 American Association of Cancer Researchers conference, metastatic cancer patients face much higher risks of death or severe complications from COVID-19 compared to those without cancer.

During this time, Komen has prioritized assisting the breast cancer community through the following programs:



**RESEARCH
FUNDING**



HELPLINE



**PATIENT
SUPPORT**



**ADVOCACY
EFFORTS**



**TREATMENT
ASSISTANCE**

Read on to learn how your support has benefited thousands of individuals affected by breast cancer since the start of the pandemic.

RESEARCH

Research is the only thing that will cure breast cancer.

It's key to developing better, more effective treatments, and it's the only way we're going to understand why some cancers stop responding to treatment and spread.

All of our major medical advancements come from clinical trials, and they are what speed discovery benefiting patients. Unfortunately, during the pandemic, the overall number of clinical trials has decreased, making it more difficult for patients to join new trials and especially devastating for the metastatic community who is running out of options.

We've also seen hiring freezes across the country which will mean fewer jobs over the next several years for young researchers who will be integral to finding cures. Especially troubling is that early data shows that women in science have been more negatively impacted than men during the pandemic. A recent report from the Rapid Research Information Forum (RRIF) showed that during the pandemic, female scientists have been more likely to lose jobs, paid hours and career opportunities when compared to their male counterparts.

Despite all of this, and thanks to support from partners like you, **we've been able to continue our research portfolio of approximately 200 grants and 40 clinical trials.** We look forward to growing this investment in the future and focusing on opportunities with the greatest potential to help patients live longer, better lives. Future grant funding will go towards conquering metastatic breast cancer, personalizing breast cancer care and eliminating breast cancer disparities.



Research Spotlight: Clinical Trial Breakthrough

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved tucatinib, a new drug for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer. The HER2Climb clinical trial demonstrated that when given in combination with chemotherapy, tucatinib dramatically reduced the risk of disease progression and improved overall survival rates for patients with brain metastases, one of the hardest types of mets to treat.

Dr. Sherene Loi, a former Komen Career Catalyst Research grantee and one of the principal investigators for the study, shared that **“the risk of dying in this study was reduced by a third** if you received standard treatment plus tucatinib.” This is a great result, and **the chance to live longer is a really meaningful result for patients.**



BREAST CARE & CLINICAL TRIAL INFORMATION HELPLINE

3,879 served from March 1-June 30

Komen's Helplines are staffed by trained oncology social workers who provide trustworthy information as well as psychosocial support and connections to resources in local communities.

During the pandemic, when many nonprofits have had to cut services or cancel programs, we are incredibly proud that Komen's Helplines have remained fully operational thanks to the ongoing support of our dedicated donors and partners. Cancer patients have been especially worried about how COVID-19 could affect them, and many callers have requested advice about how to navigate this difficult situation. Concerns included personal risks, treatment decisions, screening decisions and requests for financial assistance.

- **"As I am not a year out since my last treatment for breast cancer, I had questions regarding COVID-19.** The Helpline answered all my questions. This is a scary time for people."
- "I was promptly assisted and given all the information available concerning my case. Everything was extremely useful, and all the resources were accurate. When I contacted Komen, I felt assured and confident because of how prompt and professional the responses were. I know I can surely call back any time and will receive the same quality of help. **I will strongly recommend Komen to anyone who might need your service. Thank you so much.**"
- **"You are an angel. Thank you for everything.** This morning I was diagnosed with a mild case of COVID-19. Now I can rest myself and work hard to find an apartment after this quarantine. This too will pass. God bless you and be safe."
- **"You are the first person that I spoke to that gets it.** I really appreciate you and the time you have given me."

PATIENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Guiding patients through difficult decisions and providing social and emotional support reduces breast cancer treatment disparities and helps individuals navigate their way through our complex health care system, ensuring timely diagnosis and follow-up.

Komen provides extensive educational materials through our various communication portals including the About Breast Cancer section of our website, our Social Media channels and our blog. Komen's educational content is safe, trustworthy and evidence based. We help patients and their families make more informed decisions, point them toward vital resources and provide connections to millions around the world through our virtual communities.

"About Breast Cancer" section of [komen.org](https://www.komen.org)

Over one million unique page views since start of pandemic

Too often, men and women are not getting the care they need because they don't understand how to access the care that is available. Improving treatment outcomes and reducing mortality rates must start with education. Komen's premier education portal, the About Breast Cancer (ABC) section of [komen.org](https://www.komen.org) empowers patients with information to help them make informed breast care decisions throughout the continuum of care. The ABC section, developed in partnerships with Harvard Medical School faculty and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute staff, is updated regularly with the most current information for the millions who visit the site every year. Patients and their families can learn about facts and statistics related to breast cancer, risk factors, screening and early detection, how breast cancer is diagnosed and treated, clinical trials, how to obtain financial assistance and much more.

During the pandemic, Komen created a page with specific information about the coronavirus and breast cancer. This page, which has received nearly 16,000 views to date, includes trustworthy information about COVID-19, risk factors for contracting the disease and details about how those with breast cancer could be affected.



Instagram TV Series: "In Case You Missed It"

Nearly 8,000 views of nine-episode series to date

Komen's newly launched Instagram TV Series, "In Case You Missed It," helps to summarize relevant breast health topics in a quick, easy to understand format for our community. During a time when most people, especially breast cancer patients with compromised immune systems, are staying home, we wanted to create a new resource that could be accessed virtually from anywhere by anyone.

The series has covered topics such as updated treatment guidelines for cancer patients, the approval of a new drug for MBC patients, an explanation of how data is used in research studies, how the Black community has been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, a summary of the American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting, information about the importance of vaccines and our thoughts on whether telemedicine will continue after the pandemic ends.

Going forward, we will continue to break down important breast cancer related headlines and help make sense of the frequent changes and updates relevant for breast cancer patients and their families.



Facebook Live Events

During this time, Komen has increased our efforts to provide virtual services to the breast cancer community. Our popular Facebook Live events have featured panel discussions with leaders in the oncology community and an opportunity for patients to ask questions directly of these breast cancer experts. Topics have ranged from advice about continuing breast cancer treatment during the pandemic to precautions to take and how to resume regular activities as states reopen. Highlights include:

Breast Cancer & Coronavirus Impact Chat

39,031 participants

Panelists: Dr. Anthony C. Wolff, Dr. Julia R. White and Dr. Lisa Newman

COVID-19 and MBC

40,019 participants

Panelists: Dr. Ian Krop and Dr. Kathy Miller

States are Re-Opening....Now What

26,217 participants

Panelists: Dr. George Sledge, Dr. Lisa Carey and Dr. Sandy Finestone

The Komen Connection

Nearly 100,000 unique page views since start of the pandemic

Komen's blog, The Komen Connection, was recently named as one of Healthline.com's best breast cancer blogs of 2020. Readers can find personal stories from patients going through treatment and family members of those with breast cancer, along with useful information from medical professionals reporting on the latest research. Recently, we have featured a number of blogs directly focused on issues related to COVID-19 and breast cancer. Some of the highlights include:

A Komen 3-Dayer's Journey to the Frontlines - Jamie Wilson, a medical trauma nurse and Komen 3-Dayer, recounts her experience in a Medical/Telemetry COVID unit at a hospital right outside New York City during the peak of the epidemic there. Despite the trying and emotional situation, Wilson shares that she's found a strong sense of camaraderie and support among the hospital staff, similar to what she experiences as a member of the 3-Day community.

Breast Cancer, Chemo, and COVID-19, Oh My! - Undergoing treatment for breast cancer during COVID-19 is extremely difficult. A breast cancer patient expresses her appreciation to others for sheltering in place during the pandemic to help those with compromised immune systems. She also details some of the unique challenges of going through treatment during this time.

More African Americans Die From COVID-19 - Black women diagnosed with COVID-19 are 40% more likely to die from the disease than white women. The same increased mortality rate is also true for Black women with breast cancer. This post details how COVID-19 has shined a light on long existing racial health disparities and the important work Susan G. Komen is doing to lessen racial breast health inequities.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

COVID-19 relief efforts remain the priority for all policymakers across the country. Komen is working to ensure that breast cancer research funding and the needs of the breast cancer community are part of the conversation, highlights of our recent advocacy efforts include:



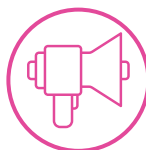
In conjunction with other patient advocacy organizations, we have signed on to over 40 letters covering a variety of topics related to patient access and needs in the wake of the epidemic such as surprise medical billing, prescription drug supply and coverage to allow for social distancing, telehealth coverage and protection for immunocompromised populations, pandemic preparedness and support for the CDC and triage care discrimination against those living with metastatic disease.



Komen's Public Policy and Advocacy team hosted three virtual events regarding COVID-19 including a Twitter chat to educate patients on how policies in the age of coronavirus affect those with breast cancer, a webinar on COVID-19 and breast cancer as part of the Patients' Access Series and a virtual Congressional Briefing on metastatic breast cancer in which patients discussed their experiences both separate from and as they relate to the coronavirus.



Komen provided federal lawmakers with our own list of policy priorities for relief package legislation which included paid leave, chemotherapy parity, clinical trial safety, surprise medical billing, financial support for non-profits and establishing an emergency Open Enrollment Period for Affordable Care Act plans.



Our Center for Public Policy sent out four calls to action to our grassroots network on various issues of importance as highlighted by the pandemic. These alerts averaged over 1,000 respondents and resulted in more than 6,500 messages sent to legislators.

TREATMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

1,723 served from March 1-July 31

With millions out of work due to the pandemic, many are reporting that to make ends meet, they have been forced to skip doctors' appointments, leave prescriptions unfilled or miss rent or mortgage payments. No one should have to make the choice of getting the treatment they need or putting food on the table.

Komen's Treatment Assistance Program helps ease the financial burden faced by those undergoing breast cancer treatment. Thanks to investments from our partners, we have been able to help with basic life expenses, so patients can focus on getting the treatments they need.

Individuals can use the financial assistance to help cover costs related to transportation to treatment, child and elder care, home care, food, durable medical equipment and more.

- "You don't know how grateful I am. Thank you so much! **Komen is one of the few organizations giving assistance at this time.**"
- "I had to stop working when I found out that I had breast cancer. I had to take radiation every day and had to drive from Madison, County to Clarke County. **The money for gas helped me. I want to thank each of you for helping me.**"
- "**I owe my life to Komen.** If you ever feel like you don't do much, just remember that you DO save lives."



On behalf of the many women and men we serve, thank you for your support. You make everything we do for breast cancer patients, researchers and all those affected by this terrible disease possible. We are especially appreciative for your help during this difficult time.