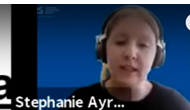


COVID-19: Potential impact on asthma patients

## Questions from patients with asthma



- How can I tell if it is my asthma or COVID-19?  
How do I know when to take prednisolone if I can't tell the difference?
- I have had COVID-19 and I am experiencing breathing difficulties afterwards. What should I do?
- Does COVID-19 cause permanent lung damage and breathlessness? Will it reduce my lifespan if I recover?



### A message from Isabel Saraiva, Chair of the European Lung Foundation:

Dear friends,

It has been an unusual time for all of us, and we hope that you are coping with the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought.

We are continuing to work closely with experts from the European Respiratory Society (ERS) to provide reliable information for people affected by lung disease during these uncertain times. We have now created a new section on our website dedicated to COVID-19 resources which includes the latest news, Q&As with experts, patient stories and more. You can visit the page at [www.europeanlung.org/en/covid-19/](http://www.europeanlung.org/en/covid-19/).

It is great to see so many patients and patient representatives contributing to ERS webinars to post their questions about COVID-19 and lung conditions. Members of our patient advisory groups (PAGs) have been directly involved in webinars to represent the patient voice in asthma and rare lung diseases.

We know that many of you look forward to the annual ERS Congress to meet up and share practices with the respiratory community. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pleased to be able to announce that the Congress will still take place virtually on 7-9 September 2020 and we are looking forward to connecting with you all. More information about this can be read in this newsletter.

### Awareness days this month:

- World Asthma Day: 5 May
- World Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) Day: 5 May
- International Nurses Day: 12 May
- World Sleep Day: 13 May
- World Hypertension Day: 17 May
- World No Tobacco Day: 31 May



Fungal allergies linked to worse symptoms for people with COPD

[Find out more](#)

'No evidence' that inhaled steroids increase risk of COVID-19

[Find out more](#)

Research highlights unmet care needs of people living with pulmonary fibrosis

[Find out more](#)



## NEW ELF FACTSHEET: TOBACCO HARM REDUCTION

A new ELF factsheet on tobacco harm reduction has been published in *Breathe*, a European Respiratory Society journal. It provides information on e-cigarettes, heat-not-burn and smokeless tobacco products.

[Download the factsheet in English](#). More languages will follow.

## ERS CONGRESS UPDATE

Despite the current COVID-19 pandemic, we are delighted to announce that the European Respiratory Society (ERS) International Congress 2020 will still take place. It will be held on the 7-9 September and will be delivered virtually.

[Find out more.](#)



## SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES OF COPD FLARE-UPS IN A NEW SURVEY

The European Respiratory Society (ERS) and ELF have launched a survey asking patients to share their experiences of what is most important to them during a COPD exacerbation. The survey is designed to develop a core outcome set (COS) to help researchers improve treatment based on patients' priorities.

[Find out more and complete the survey.](#)



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## NEW PATIENT PRIORITIES WEBSITE: SARCOIDOSIS

We have launched a new patient priorities website with information and resources for people with sarcoidosis and their family members and caregivers. It was developed by the ELF sarcoidosis patient advisory group and experts from around the world.

[Find out more](#) and [visit the website](#).



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## COMPETITION TO PRODUCE ARTWORK REPRESENTING WOMEN WITH COPD

We have launched an art competition which aims to improve the representation of women with COPD. Anyone can enter and the winner will receive a commission worth €5,000.

[Find out more](#).



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## PATIENTS CAN EVALUATE DOCTORS' PERFORMANCES

Researchers in the Netherlands looked into what role patients with respiratory disease want to play in evaluating their doctor.

[Find out more](#).



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## COVID-19 HOSPITAL FACTSHEETS

We have produced factsheets for people going to hospital with COVID-19 and their families/friends. They explain what will happen and what decisions they may have to make.

The factsheets are now available in 23 languages, with more to come.

[Download the factsheet in your language](#).



## COVID-19: SHARE HOW YOU ARE LIVING AND COPING WITH THE CHALLENGES

During this very worrying time, we invite you to share how you are living and coping with the challenges of COVID-19. You can do this by using a simple phone APP to record your experiences by video.

[Find out more](#) and [read/watch patients' stories](#).



## PATIENT INVOLVEMENT IN EXPERT WEBINARS

Patients and patient representatives have been involved in recent ERS webinars about COVID-19 and specific disease areas alongside healthcare professionals.

[Find out more and watch the webinars](#).



## COVID-19 NEWS ROUND-UP

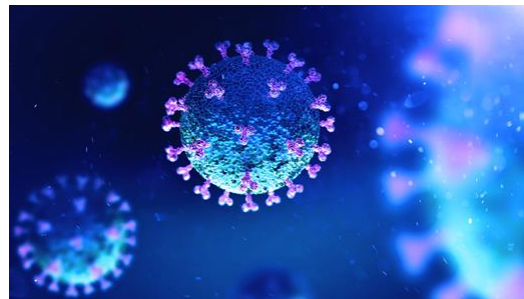
[Isolation and contact tracing can reduce the spread of COVID-19, new study finds](#)

[Study shows how COVID-19 can spread in care facilities before symptoms develop](#)

[Combating shortages of medical equipment: how an effective low-cost device could be easily produced](#)

[Call for better virtual communication for isolated patients at the end of life](#)

[Why smokers and people with COPD are more likely to experience worse symptoms of COVID-19](#)



## WHAT IS VENTILATION?

We have published a Q&A with Prof. Leo Heunks. He answers a range of questions about mechanical ventilation, particularly in relation to COVID-19.

[Read the Q&A](#).



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## PATIENT ORGANISATION ROUND-UP: MAY 2020

Patient organisations across Europe have been working hard to provide COVID-19 information for patients with specific underlying lung conditions and have been supporting healthcare workers on the frontline.

[Find out more.](#)



The European Lung Foundation (ELF) was founded by the European Respiratory Society (ERS) in 2000 with the aim of bringing together patients, the public and respiratory professionals to positively influence respiratory medicine.

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