

Information on the impact of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on patients with rare diseases of the respiratory system is not yet available. It is unlikely that all of the many different rare diseases of the respiratory system confer an increased risk of becoming infected with the virus. The impact of infection with COVID-19 in some of the rare disease patients, though, is likely to be greater than in the general population. Patients with significant changes of pulmonary function and/or decreased competence of their immune system are less likely to cope with the development of a viral pneumonia and we have to expect that the lasting effects of a viral pneumonia will be more severe in patients with rare diseases of the respiratory system than in the general population.

ERN-LUNG Members are continuously monitoring all activities and reports related to COVID-19 in patients with rare diseases of the respiratory system. Experience is not sufficient yet to publish any disease specific information or recommendation but, ERN-LUNG will share all relevant information on its [webpage](#) and via social media [channels](#).

The landscape is rapidly changing, and all patients are advised to monitor events on a daily basis, since the likelihood of infection increases with the increasing number of cases in the patients' surroundings. Advice is available from Public Health Authorities of the resp. European Member States and from the doctors and care teams involved in specialized care. Information for the public is widely available on the internet and if needed, patients are free to seek specific advice from Members of ERN-LUNG by using the online Expert Advice System [EXABO](#).

COVID-19 IN PATIENTS WITH RARE DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM – ERN-LUNG AND ERS JOINT WEBINAR

Please save the date for this joint [webinar](#) organized by ERN-LUNG and European Respiratory Society (ERS), hosted by the European Commission, on 30 April 2020, 17-18h CET, with the aim to address the pulmonary and more severe aspects of COVID-19. For those who cannot attend, the video recording of the webinar will be posted on the websites of ERN-LUNG and ERS. The live viewing link will soon be made available by the Commission.

EUROPEAN WEBPAGE ON ERNs AND COVID-19

In the context of the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, the European Commission published a European webpage on the [ERNs and COVID-19](#). This page provides a description of the COVID-19 Clinical Management Support System (CMSS), the statement by the ERN Board of Member states and the eNews. This page will become available in all EU languages shortly.

NEW CALL FOR ERN MEMBERSHIP 2019 – EVALUATION SUSPENDED

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the European Commission has decided to [suspend all evaluations](#) concerning the New Call for Membership for existing ERNs until September 1st. We will have until September 30th to get everything sorted out. The Commission will inform the applicants of this development.

EU RESEARCH FUNDING AND TRAINING CALLS

You may find a list of open research funding calls and training programs, some of them with revised deadlines due to the pandemic, [here](#).

THE 10th EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON RARE DISEASES AND ORPHAN PRODUCTS (ECDR 2020) GOES ONLINE

In the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic and in line with WHO guidelines, the upcoming ECDR will now take place online from May 14th to 16th, 2020. There will be NO on-site event in Stockholm. The price structure of fees to attend ECDR online will be revised to reflect the change in event format. If you have already registered, you will receive information regarding a reimbursement of the difference in cost for registration. You may find more information [here](#).

ERN-LUNG ANNUAL BOARD MEETING 2020

In case you missed the annual meeting that took place in Frankfurt on 26-27 February earlier this year, you may find the meeting report [here](#).