

When a Loved One Gets Sick

Common Questions + Concerns for a Child

Common questions or concerns

Will I get cancer?

- “No one can catch what your loved one has, it is not contagious like a cold.”

Did I cause my loved one to get sick?

- “It is no one’s fault that this happened, no one did nothing to cause your loved one to get sick.”

Will my loved one lose their hair?

- “Sometimes, the medicines that help your loved one’s body get rid of the cancer/unhealthy cells can also cause their hair to fall out.
 - No: “Your loved one is not taking that medication so they will not lose their hair.”
 - Yes: “The plan is for your loved one to take the medication that can also cause their hair to fall out.
 - I do not know: “We don’t know the plan yet of which medications your loved one will have to take, but once I find out I will come and talk to you about it.”

Will my loved one die?

- “Doctors are working very hard to get rid of the unhealthy cells and to stop them from growing.”
- “Right now your loved one’s body is...”
 - examples of ways to explain what is happening inside the body:
 - working as it should and they are able to do most of the things they loves to do
 - having trouble doing the things it needs to do, like digest their food or breathe in oxygen

If my loved one is sick who will take care of me?

- “The plan is for other family members to come and stay with you when your loved ones can’t be home. You might also have more playdates or sleepovers with friends and family.
- “If anything changes I will let you know and I will make sure you know the plan for who will be caring for you.”

How do I tell my friends about my loved one?

- “It can be helpful if your friends or teachers know about your loved one’s diagnosis, we can figure out how you want to tell them together.”