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Graham Paine/Metroland

Wellspring's Susy Borges Santos (left) and Ilene Shiller are among those helping people living with cancer.

LIVING WITH CANCER IN THE COVID AGE

WELLSPRING OFFERS WEALTH OF VIRTUAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

KATHY YANCHUS
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A cancer diagnosis's psychological and emotional impact is only exacerbated when the devastating news comes during a global pandemic.

Patients are already dealing with isolation, virtual appointments and worries about COVID-19 and an immunocompromised condition, said Ilene Shiller, a manager and trained social worker with Wellspring, which offers support programs for

those in Halton Hills — and across the region — living with cancer.

"Then layer onto that the fact that your surgery or your treatment schedule gets changed around, (or) gets delayed," said Shiller. "We're seeing a lot more

fear because you have to worry about (the) impact on the progression of the disease."

When Wellspring's doors were shuttered in March 2020, its programs quickly switched to virtual. The move not only allowed clients to resume their sessions but made accessibility to program-

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