

# Breast Screening Mammograms During COVID-19

## What is happening with the Screening Program for Breast Cancer?

Following the temporary pause of the Screening Program for Breast Cancer due to COVID-19 measures, the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency is resuming screening clients in a planned and phased approach.

## When will the Screening Program for Breast Cancer resume appointments?

We have started to send out invitation letters again to people who are eligible or due for screening.

Some satellite locations are still only booking appointments two weeks out, in the event they need to suspend screenings again as a result of COVID-19 measures.

## Are you screening everyone for symptoms of COVID-19?

We will call you the day before your appointment to remind you and to do a verbal COVID-19 screening for symptoms. People who do not pass the screening will not be eligible for a screening mammogram, and will be called in two weeks to reschedule.

SCA employees are screened daily, which includes temperature checks.

## What will happen at my appointment?

We have reserved parking for you at our Regina and Saskatoon facilities. We ask that you phone us from your vehicle when you arrive to go through the COVID-19 screening questions again.

In an effort to prevent congestion at our entrances, we will advise you when it is safe for you to enter our facilities. A waiting room will be made available for those who do not have a vehicle.

Once you are inside, we will ask you to sanitize your hands and put on a mask that we will provide to you.

To minimize your exposure in our facilities, we are permitting people to change into gowns in the mammography room.

Our technicians will be wearing gloves, gowns, a procedure mask and possibly a face shield while completing mammograms.

## What is happening with the mobile screening bus?

The mobile mammography bus is staying parked for the time being. We are developing a plan, which will remain contingent on areas of concern or outbreaks and the availability of safe lodging and food sources for staff who travel with the bus.



# Breast Screening & COVID-19

## **Will I be able to go to my preferred or usual screening mammogram site?**

Some of the screening mammogram sites may not yet be fully operational. As a result, we may not be able to accommodate your preferred site. We will discuss options with you when booking your appointment.

## **What happens if my results indicate that I need further testing for follow-up?**

Our navigators will work with you and your healthcare provider to ensure you receive the follow-up you require.

## **What is the risk of delaying a screening mammogram? Aren't women supposed to have a mammogram every two years?**

The Screening Program for Breast Cancer aims to detect breast abnormalities early on, before any symptoms or conditions are noticeable outside of a mammogram. For most people, a delay in regular screening mammograms is unlikely to impact long-term health outcomes. If you are concerned about a delay in your mammogram, contact your healthcare provider.

## **What if I think I have breast abnormalities or symptoms of breast cancer?**

The Screening Program for Breast Cancer only screens women who have no abnormalities and who have good breast health. If you find a change in your breast or you have concerns regarding your breasts, please consult your healthcare provider as soon as possible.

Your healthcare provider will conduct an assessment to determine further diagnostic measures, such as whether you need to have a mammogram or ultrasound. They will refer you to a local service provider and will provide the necessary follow up care, as required.

## **Where should I go if my GP recommends that I have a mammogram?**

If your healthcare provider refers you for a mammogram, ultrasound, or other investigation, they will coordinate this for you and ensure continued follow-up.

## **Why isn't the Screening Program for Breast Cancer an essential service?**

The Screening Program for Breast Cancer provides a very important service for the early detection of breast cancer, but are not urgent medical procedures. Follow-up is also dependent on services and capacity of the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Due to the risk to clients and Cancer Agency staff of exposure to COVID-19, we made the difficult decision to suspend the screening program in March. We are pleased to have been able to resume services in June.