

Screening mammograms and the COVID-19 vaccine both save lives.



While the COVID-19 vaccine can cause swollen lymph nodes under the arms, women should not miss their annual screening mammogram. The below recommendations are provided by the national Society of Breast Imaging (SBI) for women receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

- ▶ **About the COVID-19 vaccine and swollen lymph nodes:**
Some women who receive the COVID-19 vaccine develop swollen lymph nodes under their arm on the same side as their vaccine injection. This is a normal immune reaction to the vaccine. These swollen lymph nodes usually return to normal on their own in a few days or weeks.
- ▶ **Why do swollen lymph nodes matter?**
Radiologist look closely for any changes on your mammogram. Swollen lymph nodes under one arm can be seen on a mammogram and can be a rare sign of breast cancer. If you have recently received the COVID-19 vaccine, please tell your mammography technologist.
- ▶ **Should I consider rescheduling either my mammogram or my COVID-19 vaccination if they will occur close to one another?**
Keep both your COVID-19 vaccination and mammography appointments. Getting vaccinated is critical to stop the spread of COVID-19. Regular screening mammograms ensure that breast cancer can be detected as early as possible. Both are important for you to stay healthy. It's especially important to keep your mammogram appointment if you are significantly overdue for a screening. Remember, annual screenings save the most lives.
- ▶ **What happens if there are swollen lymph nodes on my mammogram?**
Depending on your medical history and when you received your vaccine, the radiologist may recommend that you return to the breast center for an ultrasound of your underarm area and they also may recommend a follow-up exam to show that the lymph nodes have returned to normal size.
- ▶ **What should I tell the technologist on the day of my screening mammogram?**
Notify your mammography technologist if you have received a COVID-19 vaccine. Share when you received the vaccine, and which arm the vaccine was given. State whether it's your first or second dose. This information will help the radiologist interpreting your screening mammogram.
- ▶ **What if I have other breast problems?**
If you have any changes in your breast or underarm such as pain or a lump, contact your medical provider. The guidelines above are only for women with no breast symptoms who are scheduled for a COVID-19 vaccine.