



Pandemic Planning: Ontario Health Recommendations for Cancer Screening in Ontario

Cancer Screening Pandemic Recommendations

The information below is intended as guidance and we recognize that there will be local context that also needs to be taken into account. We recommend that facilities work with their local pandemic planning teams and Regional Cancer Program (RCP) to support a coordinated efforts and alignment across the region.

Cancer Screening Scenario	Recommendation
Routine Screening for Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) Cancer Screening Programs	All routine screening appointments can be deferred for the entire pandemic. Screening activities for the healthy population would not be recommended while there is pandemic activity in the province.
Patients already screened, with abnormal screening results (but not highly suspicious for cancer)	Patients who have an abnormal screening result that is not highly suspicious for cancer on mammography screening may have their follow up appointment delayed. The feasibility of an assessment during the six to eight weeks of a pandemic wave will depend upon the availability of resources.
Patients already screened, with an abnormal screening result that is highly suspicious for cancer	Patients who have an abnormal screening result with highly suspicious findings should be scheduled for assessment and other follow-ups. The feasibility of an assessment during the six to eight weeks of a pandemic wave will depend upon the availability of resources.

Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) Mammography Equipment Quality Assurance

- Annual physics inspections of OBSP mammography equipment may be deferred. This follows the recommendations released by Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) and the Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR) advising that routine screening can be deferred during COVID-19 and that many mammography units will be unable to get a medical physicist’s inspection.
- OBSP sites should continue to follow CAR updates on the Mammography Accreditation Program requirements as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves.
- Additional guidance on quality assurance measures for OBSP mammography equipment will be provided as part of resuming routine screening activities.

Additional Guidance for Independence Health Facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found on the Ministry of Health’s website at the following link:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_ihf_guidance.pdf