

Am I part of Alberta Health Services – Cancer Screening Programs?

You are automatically enrolled in each Cancer Screening Program once you reach a certain age. To take part, get your cancer screening tests and any follow-up as your healthcare provider advises.

How do I find a doctor or clinic offering cancer screening?

To find a doctor, or a clinic in your area:

- call Health Link Alberta at 1-866-408-LINK (5465)
- visit informalberta.ca
- visit cpsa.ab.ca
- call us at 1-866-727-3926

How does Alberta Health Services – Cancer Screening Programs get my name and address?

Alberta Health and Wellness, under the Health Information Act, gives the Cancer Screening Programs the names and addresses of people in Alberta who are eligible for screening so that we can send you letters about cancer screening.

How is my privacy protected?

Alberta Health Services – Cancer Screening Programs

- is secure, private, and confidential. Staff are bound by the Health Information Act. They only have access to your cancer screening results and any related follow-up test results. No other health information is obtained.
- sends letters to eligible Albertans. If you aren't sure you want letters from us, please call 1-866-727-3926 or talk to your healthcare provider about the benefits of being part of Cancer Screening Programs. If you choose not to take part in any of the programs, it will not affect your access to any cancer screening services.



About the Alberta Health Services – Cancer Screening Programs

Alberta Health Services coordinates the Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program, the Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Program, and the Alberta Colorectal Cancer Screening Program in partnership with healthcare providers. Cancer Screening Programs mails invite, result, and reminder letters to men and women. These programs operate in some parts of Alberta and will expand throughout the province in the near future. Visit screeningforlife.ca to find out whether Cancer Screening Programs send letters in your area.

To get letters from Cancer Screening Programs your name and address must be up to date with Alberta Health and Wellness; call 310-0000 (toll free) then dial 780-427-1432.

Screening is one of the best things you can do to prevent and detect cancer early. Breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening saves lives.

For more information, please contact

Cancer Screening Programs

Phone 1-866-727-3926

Fax 1-888-944-3388

screeningforlife.ca

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CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMS

Preventing and Detecting Cancer Early



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Why screen for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers?

Cancer screening helps find breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer early, when treatment may work better. Screening also helps prevent cervical and colorectal cancer by finding and treating early changes before they develop into cancer.

What is an organized population cancer screening program?

An organized population cancer screening program screens people of a certain sex and age group. Cancer screening is **for healthy people who have no symptoms of the disease**. People who have symptoms should see their healthcare provider.

An organized population cancer screening program is needed when:

- the cancer is a major health problem
- the natural progression of the cancer is understood
- the cancer is more treatable if found early
- the screening test is simple, safe, inexpensive, and acceptable to people who are eligible
- screening is cost-effective, decreases deaths, and/or reduces the cases of cancer

What organized cancer screening programs are in Alberta?

Alberta Health Services coordinates 3 organized cancer screening programs, in partnership with healthcare providers:

- Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program
- Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Program
- Alberta Colorectal Cancer Screening Program

Each of the Alberta Health Services - Cancer Screening Programs is at a different stage of operation across the province.

To find out more about any Alberta Health Services – Cancer Screening Programs, please visit screeningforlife.ca or phone 1-866-727-3926.

What does Alberta Health Services – Cancer Screening Programs do?

Alberta Health Services – Cancer Screening Programs aim to increase screening rates and reduce deaths from breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer. Cancer Screening Programs coordinate a number of activities including, but not limited to:

- sending letters to eligible people (letters can include invitations, results, and/or reminder letters about needed tests)
- having a follow-up reminder system in place for healthcare providers
- supporting increased access to cancer screening services
- offering information and educational resources to the public and healthcare providers
- helping to ensure the quality of the screening process



Living healthy can reduce your risk of some cancers.

Who needs to be screened for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer?

Cancer Screening Program (for people at average risk) ¹	Age and Gender ¹	Recommended Test	Frequency
Breast	Women 50 to 69 ²	Screening Mammogram ³	At least every 2 years
Cervical	Women 21 to 69 ⁴	Pap Test	Every 3 years after 3 annual, normal test results
Colorectal	Men & Women 50 to 74	Home Stool Test (Fecal Occult Blood Test)	Every year

¹ Talk with your healthcare provider about other risk factors you may have (personal history, family history) to see what is best for you.

² Women aged 40 to 49 may have screening mammograms with a doctor's referral. Women 70 and over should talk to their healthcare provider about whether screening mammograms should be part of their breast health routine.

³ Clinical breast exam is also recommended every year with your healthcare provider as part of a regular health check-up.

⁴ Women should begin having Pap tests at 21 or 3 years after becoming sexually active, whichever is later.

What about screening for other cancers?

- There is not enough evidence that screening the whole population for other cancers (e.g., prostate, ovarian, skin, etc.) reduces the number of cancers and/or deaths.
- Tests for other cancers may be useful on an individual basis, but may not be useful, and/or cost-effective with large populations. There may be new screening tests in the future.
- To find out more about your need for other cancer screening tests, talk to your healthcare provider.