

COVID-19 Vaccinations and Mammograms:

You might have questions and concerns about the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine and the impact on your mammogram. Below are things to know about breast cancer screenings (mammograms) and the COVID-19 vaccination:

- 1. It is common to have swollen lymph nodes (glands) in the underarm near where you received the COVID-19 vaccination?** Yes, it is common. Lymph nodes are a part of the body's germ fighting system. Swelling in the lymph nodes are a signal that the body is building protection against the COVID-19 virus. Sometimes this swelling can cause false readings on a mammogram if done too soon after receiving the vaccine.
- 2. What are my options if I have an upcoming mammogram scheduled and I have not been vaccinated?** Talk to health care provider and ask how long you should wait after being vaccinated to have your mammogram. Some health care providers suggest receiving a mammogram before being vaccinated or waiting 4-6 weeks after being vaccinated to have a mammogram.
- 3. What should I do if have been vaccinated? Should I still get a mammogram?** Yes, you should still get a mammogram. Talk with your health care provider to figure out together a medically appropriate schedule for your upcoming mammogram.
- 4. COVID-19 vaccinations and mammograms can save lives.** Regular screenings can catch early signs and symptoms of cancer and lead to positive treatment outcomes. Keep in mind the COVID-19 virus can cause serious complications for those with cancer. ***We recommend you take the COVID-19 vaccination and if you have any questions always talk with your health care provider.***

Resource: MD Anderson Cancer Center: <https://www.mdanderson.org/cancerwise/7-things-to-know-about-the-covid-19-vaccine-mammograms-and-other-diagnostic-imaging-tests.h00-159459267.html>