JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICAL IMAGING

Screening Mammograms After Receiving a COVID-19 Vaccine

Having a screening mammogram soon after a COVID-19 vaccination could result in a "false positive" and subsequent call-back due to temporarily enlarged axillary lymph nodes.

The Johns Hopkins Division of Breast Imaging supports the recommendation of the Society of Breast Imaging: When possible, and if it does not delay doctor-recommended care, screening mammograms should be:

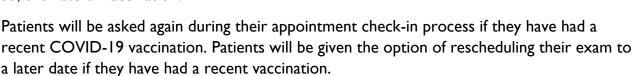
- Scheduled before the first dose of any COVID-19 vaccine or
- Scheduled 4 6 weeks after the final dose of any COVID-19 vaccine

Background

Breast imaging radiologists have noticed that axillary lymph nodes can become temporarily enlarged after vaccination, which is a normal and expected reaction to the vaccine. Larger-than-usual lymph nodes will result in a recall for additional imaging after a screening mammogram. Four to six weeks after the second COVID-19 vaccine, lymph nodes are expected to return to their normal size.



When patients schedule their screening mammogram appointment via phone or online through MyChart, they will be asked if they have recently received a COVID-19 vaccine and, if so, the date of vaccination.



Locations

Johns Hopkins Medical Imaging

- Bethesda
- Columbia
- Green Spring Station
- White Marsh

- Johns Hopkins Outpatient Center
- Sibley Memorial Hospital
- Johns Hopkins Bayview Breast Center

Schedule an exam

by calling 443-997-7237 or online at hopkinsmedicine.org/imaging/mychart



