

# 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.

### Patient Notification

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.

Patients will be asked again during their appointment check-in process if they have had a recent COVID-19 vaccination. Patients will be given the option of rescheduling their exam to a later date if they have had a recent 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](https://hopkinsmedicine.org/imaging/mychart)

