

Breast screening programme: important information about coronavirus (COVID-19)

COVID-19 has had a major impact on the whole NHS, including the NHS Breast Screening Programme.

As a result, your appointment may have been delayed. This means more than 12 months may have passed since your last breast screening invitation.

However, screening remains very important. Screening can save lives by finding breast cancers at an earlier stage when treatment is more successful.

When attending your screening appointment please note:

- social distancing measures will be in place
- there will be additional infection control procedures and screening staff will be wearing personal protective equipment, such as face masks, gloves and aprons
- we may have asked you to attend screening at a clinic that is not at your usual venue

Please note: you must NOT attend an appointment if you are suffering from any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 or are self-isolating. You should look at the latest government guidance at www.gov.uk/coronavirus before deciding whether to come for screening.

If you do not want to attend at this time, please let your local screening service know. Contact details are on your invitation letter. You can phone them to make another appointment when you are ready to attend.

Please be aware

- 1 For your safety please attend at the specific time for your appointment, you will not be seen earlier.
- 2 In order to protect our staff and patients we have been asked to limit the number of people attending the hospital each day. It is therefore very important that you do not bring anyone with you unless you require assistance for health or mobility reasons. Please enter the Breast Care Unit as close to your designated time as possible.
- 3 For everyone's safety if you are wearing gloves we will ask you to remove them and to sanitize your hands on arrival and again when you enter the x-ray room. We will give you a face mask when you enter the x-ray room too (unless you have your own).
- 4 Please wear clothing which is easy to remove to the waist.
- 5 If you, or anyone in your household, feel unwell with COVID like symptoms please do not attend. Ring or email the department and we will offer another appointment.
- 6 Please park at the front of the hospital and enter through the front doors where your temperature will be taken and then proceed along the corridor to the Peggy Wood Breast Care Centre which is sign posted.