

Lung Cancer Screening at MGH

My test is on: _____

- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in Ontario.
- Lung Cancer Screening is used to find lung cancer at an early stage.
- A quick low-dose CT scan (a type of x-ray) is used to find lung cancers.
- Screening is free of charge.
- MGH is one of the [Ontario Lung Screening Program](#) sites.

How do I get a Lung Cancer Screening CT scan?

- To take part you must:
 - Be age 55 or older,
 - Be a smoker or former smoker,
 - Have smoked any amount of commercial tobacco (i.e. cigarettes, cigars, loose tobacco, pipes or bidi/ beedi) daily for at least 20 years (it does not have to be 20 years in a row),
 - Have an OHIP card
- **You can either sign up yourself or your doctor can refer you.**
- If you sign up yourself, you **MUST** have a primary care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner) who will receive the results of the scan. If you do not have one, the lung cancer screening navigator will contact you after you have submitted your application.
- **To apply**, either you or your doctor must submit a [Lung Cancer Screening referral form](#) or contact the lung cancer screening navigator at lungcancerscreening@tehn.ca,
Phone: 416-469-6580 ext. 3475, Fax: 416-469-7753

What to expect?

- After you apply, the Lung Cancer Screening Program Navigator will call you.
- The navigator will confirm that you are eligible for the screening program.
- Then, if you are eligible, a CT scan will be booked for you.



Plan to be at the hospital for **90 minutes**.

The scan itself takes a few minutes.

WHERE DO I GO FOR MY TEST?

- Arrive 30 minutes before your CT scan.
- Register in Patient Registration on the first floor.
- Then go to the Diagnostic Imaging department on the first floor for your CT.
- A CT scan is a special type of x-ray.
- You will lie on your back. An open doughnut-shaped scanner will take a picture of your lungs.
- The scan takes just a few minutes. It is not painful.
- You don't need to take any medications or receive any needles for this test.
- After your CT, be sure to follow up with your doctor or nurse practitioner to get the results.

Benefits of Lung Cancer Screening

- Early detection of lung cancer has a much better chance of cure.
- Otherwise, lung cancer symptoms don't typically appear until the disease is already at an advanced stage.

Risks of Lung Cancer Screening

- No screening test is perfect.
- A CT scan may find scars, inflammation, infection or other findings. These could cause anxiety and may result in you getting more tests.
- A CT scan may miss a lung cancer.
- Low dose CT scans have a small amount of radiation. The chance of getting cancer from low dose CT scans is very low.
- Typically, the benefits of lung cancer screening CT scans outweigh the risks.

How to reduce your risk of lung cancer

- Most lung cancers are caused by smoking.
- Speak to your doctor and pharmacist about quitting smoking.
- See MGH's smoking cessation pamphlet "Your Guide to Quit Smoking" available at:
<https://www.tehn.ca/programs-services/medicine/respirology-chest-centre>



If you need to cancel your test, tell your doctor's office and the Diagnostic Imaging Department as soon as possible.
You can contact the Diagnostic Imaging Department at:
416-469-6401, 416-469-6580 ext. 2310, imaging@tehn.ca