

General Screening Information

What is screening?

Screening can find cancer earlier by testing people who do not show any signs of the disease.

Why is screening for colon cancer important?

Regular screening is important because colon cancer can often develop without any warning signs. The goal is to catch and remove pre-cancerous growths (polyps) early before cancer develops or before it spreads. When found early, colon cancer is preventable and treatable.

How do you screen for colon cancer?

Polyps (growths) in the small intestine often leak small amounts of blood into the stool. A Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) can find these small traces of blood. The FIT is a simple test that can be done in the privacy of your home.

Who should be screened for colon cancer?

All healthy people aged 50-74, with no family history of colon cancer, should be screened every two years. Research shows that people aged 50-74 benefit the most from screening for colon cancer.

People with warning signs of colon cancer (such as blood in the stool or changes in bowel habits) and those who have a family history of colon cancer should talk with their doctor who will arrange for the most appropriate screening test based on their history.

How was I chosen to be screened?

Research shows that people aged 50-74 benefit the most from screening for colon cancer. In order to offer this crucial screening program to the people of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness has provided the cancer care program with the names and addresses of people between the ages of 50 and 74 from existing Department of Health and Wellness information sources.

[Everything You Need to Know About Colon Cancer Screening](#)

Nova Scotia Health Cancer Care Program, 2019

[Home Screening Kit Instructions](#)

Nova Scotia Colon Cancer Prevention Program, 2019