

# Purdue University's Center for Healthy Living Mammography Screening Event FAQs

In an effort to increase mammogram screening rates, along with awareness, we are offering a program through Franciscan Health Lafayette Breast Center to reduce any barriers to obtaining a preventive mammography screening. Mammogram screenings are an important, preventive screening and Purdue University wants to ensure its benefits-eligible employees have an opportunity to have these screenings done. Purdue's screening rates for mammograms have increased from 39 percent in 2014 to 70 percent in 2019. However, the screening rate dropped by 3 percent in 2020 to 67 percent, which can be attributed to COVID-19. An increase in screening rates was seen again in 2021 with a one percent increase from 67 to 68 percent and in 2022 screening rates increased to 72 percent. Purdue strives to be best in class in all areas and our population health benchmark for mammograms is a best-in-class percentage of 85 percent.

Purdue University, in conjunction with Franciscan Health Lafayette Breast Center, is providing convenient access for employees to get their preventive (non-diagnostic) mammogram screening in paid status with supervisor approval.

## **Q. Who is eligible for the screening event?**

A. Benefits-eligible employees at the West Lafayette campus and their covered spouses are eligible to register with priority given to those who have not had a screening within the past two years or more. **Note:** The screening campaign is only available to females (employees and/or covered spouses).

## **Q. When can I register for a screening appointment?**

A. Registration is open now. Call Franciscan Health Lafayette Breast Center at 877-233-2774. You will also be asked for location of exam (Lafayette) and type of exam (Screening Mammogram). All participants must be registered by June 16 to take advantage of the screening. Phone lines to register are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## **Q. How far out will my appointment be scheduled?**

A. Appointments are available:

- Wednesday, June 21: 7 a.m. to 5:50 p.m.
- Thursday, June 22: 7 a.m. to 5:50 p.m.
- Friday, June 23: 7 a.m. to 4:50 p.m.
- Saturday, June 24: 19: 7:30 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

## **Q. What if I can no longer participate?**

A. If you make an appointment, but find that you're unable to keep it, please notify both the person who approved your release time and the Franciscan Health Lafayette Breast Center at (765) 423-6170, option 2.

## **Q. Will I get paid time off to participate in the screening?**

A. Yes, with your supervisor's approval, up to 90 minutes of paid time off will be allotted for screening and roundtrip travel to and from Franciscan Health Lafayette Breast Center and Purdue. You do not need to make up the paid release time.

**Q. How much will the screening cost?**

A. The screening event is for benefits-eligible employees and their covered spouses who need to have their preventive screening completed, therefore the mammography screening will be provided at no charge to you. This includes traditional x-ray and 3D non-diagnostic mammograms.

**Q. Will I need my insurance card?**

A. Yes, you will need to have your insurance card with you on the day of your appointment to complete all appropriate forms for the screening.

**Q. What if my normally scheduled hours are outside of the event times?**

A. You may be able to schedule an appointment just before or just after your shift. If you are unable to have your screening during your regularly scheduled work time, you will be participating on your own time, rather than on paid release time. You will still receive the eligible services at no charge.

**Q. How do I request the paid release time from my supervisor?**

A. Employees should talk with their unit head or designated supervisor in order to request the paid release time to be able to participate in the screening event. The employee is responsible to ensure business needs will be met during the absence and impact on the department is kept to a minimum. Things to ask your supervisor are: When is a good time to be away? Are there appointment times to avoid? Please be flexible and collaborative in working with your supervisor. Paid release time for this event is a privilege and is not a guaranteed benefit.

**Q. Do I have to provide proof of attending the mammography screening?**

A. When talking with your supervisor, you should ask if you need to provide proof of attendance. If your supervisor requires proof, you can request a note at the appointment. HIPAA laws cover the screening, so the note will only confirm attendance and will not include any personal health details.

**Q. What is included in a mammography screening?**

A. A mammogram is a simple test. When you go for a mammogram, the technician taking the picture will place your breast between two X-ray panels. The panels will push your breast between them to get a clear picture. You may feel a little bit of discomfort, but each X-ray takes less than one minute.

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**Q. Will 3D mammograms (tomosynthesis mammogram) be covered as preventive?**

A. Yes, 3D mammograms (tomosynthesis mammogram) can be covered as preventive. 2D mammograms also are available. The patient will have the choice as to which type will be performed.

**Q. Who should get a mammogram?**

A. Purdue's health plans, administered by Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, covers preventive (non-diagnostic) screening mammograms for females between the ages of 41 and 70. If you are 40 or under, talk to your doctor about when to start and how often to get a screening mammogram.

**Q. Are men eligible for the event?**

A. No, the preventive (non-diagnostic) screening mammograms are only for females. Mammograms for men would only be covered under the Purdue health plans if diagnostic, not preventive.

**Q. When will I get the results of my mammogram?**

A. Upon completing registration papers at the Franciscan St. Elizabeth Health Breast Center, you will be asked to indicate a doctor that will receive your results. If a primary care physician is not identified, your results will be sent to the Center for Healthy Living on Purdue's West Lafayette campus.

**Q. What happens if my mammogram is normal?**

A. Continue to get regular mammograms based on the US Preventive Services Task Force recommendations above.

**Q. What happens if my mammogram is abnormal?**

A. If your mammogram is abnormal, do not panic. An abnormal mammogram does not always mean there is cancer. Franciscan Health Lafayette Breast Center or your physician will discuss next steps with you. You may be required to complete additional tests or exams which can generate a fee. Additionally, you may be referred to a breast specialist or a surgeon.

**Q. Can employees from the regional campuses take advantage of the screening event?**

A. While all benefits-eligible employees are eligible for preventive screenings, the mammogram event is only for West Lafayette employees.

**Q. Can I go to my community doctor in paid status during the screening event?**

A. No, mammography screenings completed outside of the event or with your community physician are not considered part of this event. If you currently have a selected provider and get regular screenings we encourage you to continue with your provider.

**Q. I've read that I should record time as "Other leave-paid," but the time sheet says only "Other leave." Do I record it differently than "Other leave"?**

A. No, please record the time as "Other leave." You do not have to identify what the leave is for.

**Q. My primary transportation during work is in a University vehicle. Can I still go to the screening?**

A. Yes, your paid release time is considered University business, so as long as you have your supervisor's approval, you can use a University vehicle to get to your screening appointment.

**Q. What will be your measurement of success?**

A. We will continue to evaluate whether we see an increase in the number of employees who are getting their preventive screenings, which can lead to early detection of disease. Since the mammography screening campaign was introduced in 2015, Purdue's screening rates for mammograms have increased from 39 percent in 2014 to 70 percent compliance in 2019. The 3 percent drop in screening rates seen in 2020 can be attributed to COVID-19. An increase in screening rates was seen again in 2021 with a one percent increase from 67 to 68 percent, and in 2022 screening rates increased to 72 percent. We hope to see that percentage continue to increase year after year as we move forward with the campaign.