

COVID-19 vaccine: Should I reschedule my mammogram?

March 19 2021, by From Mayo Clinic News Network, Mayo Clinic News Network



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

The vaccine that prevents COVID-19 can cause swollen lymph nodes under the arm in which the shot was given. Your lymph nodes are part of

your body's germ-fighting immune system. The swelling in the lymph nodes is a sign that your body is responding to the vaccine and building up defenses against the virus that causes COVID-19.

Breast cancer also can cause swelling in the armpit if [cancer cells](#) spread to the [lymph nodes](#).

Some health care providers are concerned that having a mammogram soon after vaccination may cause unnecessary worry about swollen lymph nodes. For that reason, some have recommended waiting four to six weeks after your final vaccine dose before having a mammogram. That way, any lymph node swelling caused by the vaccine has time to go away.

Others, including Mayo Clinic, recommend that mammograms continue as scheduled. But be sure to tell your [health care provider](#) about your vaccination, the date it occurred and which arm was affected. This information will be helpful for understanding the mammogram images.

If lymph node swelling is found on your mammogram and you've recently received the COVID-19 vaccine, the radiologist who interprets your mammogram images will consider this when recommending whether additional imaging or follow-up is needed.

©2021 Mayo Clinic News Network
Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Citation: COVID-19 vaccine: Should I reschedule my mammogram? (2021, March 19) retrieved 7 August 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-03-covid-vaccine-reschedule-mammogram.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.