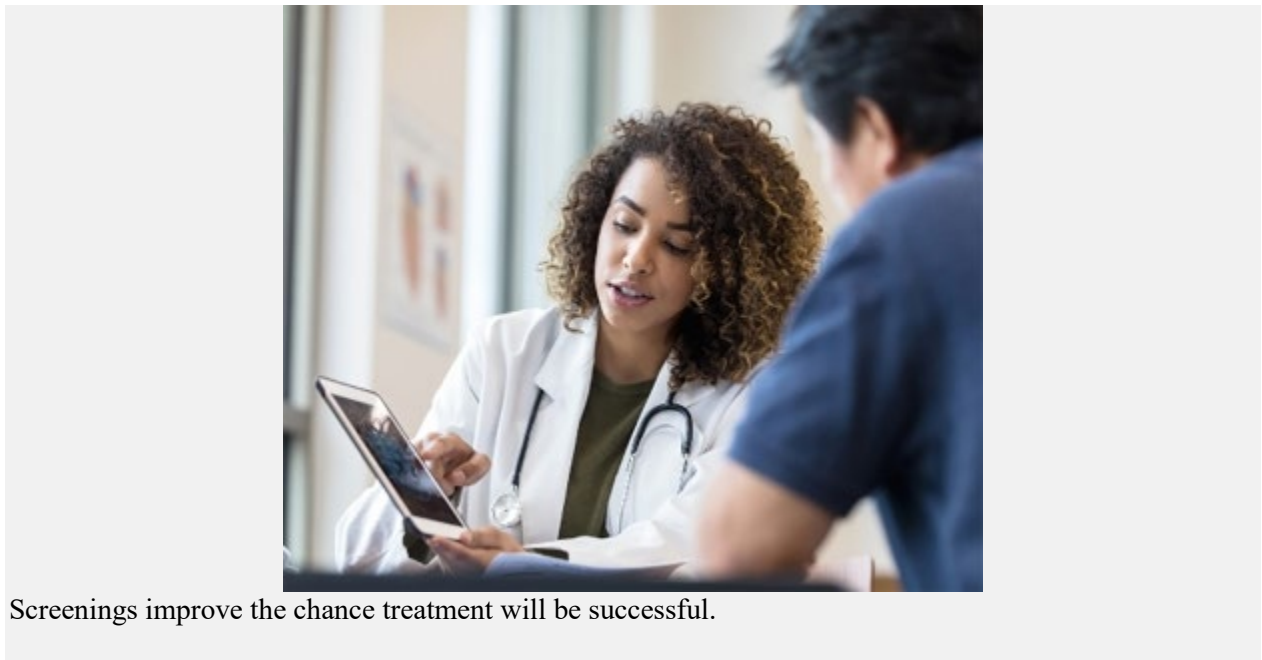


“The earlier a cancer is diagnosed, the better the outcome.” That’s what Dr. Jason Dominitz, VA national director of Gastroenterology said. It’s true: Screenings can catch cancer in an earlier stage before you notice symptoms, improving the chance treatment will be successful. VA recommends routine screenings for four cancers: [lung](#), [colon and rectal \(colorectal\)](#), [breast](#) and [cervical](#).

Age and certain risk factors, such as a past or current history of smoking and family history, all determine when you qualify for a cancer screening.



Don’t ignore symptoms

If you experience concerning symptoms, don’t delay asking if a screening is right for you. Find information on relevant symptoms for:

- [Lung Cancer](#)
- [Colorectal Cancer](#)
- [Breast Cancer](#)

- [Cervical Cancer](#)

Schedule your screening

Delays in screenings mean delays in timely diagnoses. This is why it's so important to get your screening scheduled with VA. When scheduling, remember the following:

- Be persistent. Take charge of your health. Schedule your routine screening or primary care appointments by calling your VA clinic or sending a secure message through your [My HealthVet](#)
- Answer your phone. VA will make several attempts to contact you to schedule your appointments. If you miss a VA call, please call back as soon as possible to prevent delays in your care.
- Ask about all your options. Don't want to wait for colonoscopy? Stool tests or [fecal immunochemical tests](#) are available for colorectal cancer screening and can be performed in the comfort of your home. Talk to your primary care provider to see if this test is right for you.

Screening during COVID-19

While COVID-19 remains a concern, VA is [taking precautions](#) at all VA medical centers to protect you from the virus.

VA also encourages Veterans to get their vaccine as soon as possible. It's the best way to protect yourself, your family and your community against COVID-19. [Learn more](#) about how to get the COVID-19 vaccine through your local VAMC.

To learn more about cancer care at VA, visit cancer.va.gov or email cancer@va.gov.

Important links to more information:

- [Get Recommended Screening Tests and Immunizations for Men – National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention \(va.gov\)](#)
- [Get Recommended Screening Tests and Immunizations for Women – National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention \(va.gov\)](#)