

Colorectal Cancer Screening Guidelines

for people at average risk

Ages 45–75

Get screened.

Several types of tests can be used. Talk to your doctor about which option is best for you.

No matter which test you choose, the most important thing is to get screened regularly.

Ages 76–85

Talk to your doctor

about whether you should continue screening. When deciding, take into account your own preferences, overall health, and past screening history.

Over Age 85

No longer screen.

People over age 85 should no longer get colorectal cancer screening.

Testing Options

- Visual exams such as colonoscopy or CT colonography look at the inside of the colon and rectum for polyps (growths) or cancer.
- Stool-based tests look for signs of cancer in stool and can be done at home. These tests include the fecal immunochemical test (FIT), fecal occult blood test (FOBT), and multi-target stool DNA test.
- All abnormal results on non-colonoscopy screening tests should be followed up with a timely colonoscopy.
- People with a family history of polyps or colorectal cancer, or who have other risk factors, might need to start screening before age 45, be screened more often, and/or get specific tests.

Cancer screening saves lives. Get screened.

Visit cancer.org/getscreened for cancer screening FAQs, including information about how to schedule a screening test, how to afford screening with and without insurance, and more.