

# USPSTF Guidelines for Screening Five Cancer Types\*

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) carefully reviews available data and weighs the risks and benefits for the broader population before issuing cancer screening guidelines. As of July 31, 2022, USPSTF has guidelines for five types of cancer, four of which apply to individuals who are at an average risk of developing breast, colorectal, prostate, or cervical cancer. Guidelines for lung cancer apply to former or current smokers, individuals who are at a high risk of developing the disease because of tobacco use.

## BREAST CANCER



Mammogram every other year for women ages 50 to 74. Women ages 40 to 49 should discuss with their health care provider to make an informed and shared decision on whether they should receive breast cancer screening. USPSTF last revised these guidelines in January 2016, and currently is in the process of updating them.<sup>†</sup>

**See full recommendation here:**

<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/breast-cancer-screening>

## CERVICAL CANCER



Cervical cytology every three years for women ages 21 to 65; high-risk human papillomavirus testing alone, or in combination with cytology, every five years for women ages 30 to 65. USPSTF last revised these guidelines in August 2018, and currently is in the process of updating them.

**See full recommendation here:**

<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/cervical-cancer-screening>

## COLORECTAL CANCER



Stool-based tests every one to three years, and/or colonoscopy/flexible sigmoidoscopy every five to 10 years, for all adults ages 45 to 75. USPSTF last revised these guidelines in May 2021.

**See full recommendation here:**

<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/colorectal-cancer-screening>

## LUNG CANCER



Low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) every year for all adults ages 50 to 80 who are current smokers or who quit within the past 15 years, with a 20 pack-year smoking history. Screening should be discontinued once a person has not smoked for 15 years or develops a health problem that substantially limits life expectancy or the ability or willingness to have curative lung surgery. USPSTF last revised these guidelines in March 2021.

**See full recommendation here:**

<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/lung-cancer-screening>

## PROSTATE CANCER



Periodic prostate-specific antigen-based test, after discussions with health care provider and through shared decision, for men ages 55 to 69. USPSTF last revised these guidelines in May 2018.

**See full recommendation here:**

<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/prostate-cancer-screening>

\*Guidelines included here have been simplified for brevity. The USPSTF website contains additional important and most up-to-date information. Readers are encouraged to visit the provided USPSTF webpages for each of the guidelines.

<sup>†</sup>Only USPSTF guidelines are included in this sidebar. Several other professional societies issue evidence-based screening guidelines for certain types of cancer that may differ from those issued by USPSTF. For example, certain organizations recommend that women should undergo screening mammography beginning at age 40 years.