

Spring 2021



Focus on Cancer Screenings as Diagnoses Plummet During COVID-19

The steady decline in COVID-19 cases and deaths along with vaccines that are being administered to over a million people a day is cause for hope and celebration. UW Medicine is playing a vital role in vaccinating our community in accordance with state guidelines. However, we are beginning to see other noninfectious consequences of this pandemic. As millions have stayed home and followed guidelines, preventive healthcare and cancer screening has frequently been delayed.

The American Cancer Society estimates that weekly cancer diagnoses are down by 45%. That number is even higher for breast cancer (52%). Like many institutions across the country, UW Medicine experts see the results: many more advanced stages of cancer cases with fewer options for cure.

We've worked hard to open up all of our cancer screening protocols with enhanced patient safety and encourage all women (and men) to resume regular cancer screening as long as it is feasible. This pandemic has taken away so much from us. Together let's ensure that cancer is not the next wave of this pandemic.

Barbara A. Goff, MD
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Surgeon-in-Chief, University of Washington Medical Center

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The COVID-19 Vaccine and Pregnancy: UW Medicine Experts Address Patients' Concerns Head On in Webinar

UW Medicine doctors provide much-needed data on the COVID-19 vaccine and pregnant women in a recent [webinar for our patients](#). Speakers Drs. Alisa Kachikis, Porshia Underwood and Esther Chung addressed the persistent question many women have: "Are COVID-19 vaccines safe for pregnant women and the developing baby?" And, UW Medicine's Dr. Emily Fay, a maternal-fetal medicine physician, is tracking outcomes of the COVID-19 vaccine in pregnant women.

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New Childbirth Center Opens at UW Medical Center – Northwest

The newly renovated childbirth center at UW Medicine's north Seattle facility provides a much-needed childbirth center that has spacious, private labor and delivery rooms and new surgical suite. UW Medical Center – Northwest also has a level-two NICU on-site with nurses and providers on the unit 24/7.

[Watch Virtual Tour](#)

Expert Resources, Ready to Help

Connect with UW Medicine OB-GYN experts — or connect your patients with us — for consultations, diagnosis, treatment and education for all women's healthcare needs. We look forward to partnering with you.

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