

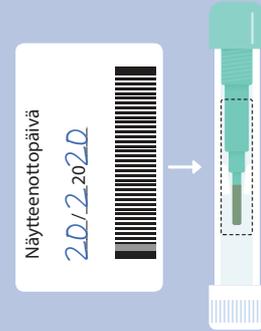
Fimlab



INVITATION TO SCREENING FOR COLORECTAL CANCER

Participation in screening means taking a sample of your stool. The sample is taken at home using the enclosed test, following separate instructions.

THE SCREENING TEST IS FREE OF CHARGE



WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

This year you have the opportunity to take part in the colorectal cancer screening offered to you by your municipality of residence. At the outset, men and women between 60 and 66 years of age are invited for screening every two years. The aim of the screening is to detect colorectal cancer early so that the treatment results and the prognosis of the cancer would be better.



HOW DOES THE SCREENING WORK?

The screening searches for hidden blood in stool. You take the sample on your own during a visit to the toilet, as explained in the enclosed instructions. No illness or medication prevents the sampling.

The sample for examination is sent to the laboratory by post in the cardboard envelope enclosed in this package. The invitation is valid until the end of the year.



HOW ARE THE RESULTS GIVEN?

The test result is sent to you personally by letter within one month of returning the sample. If the sample contains blood, the letter will have instructions on determining the cause.

Welcome to the screening! Additional information: colorectalscreening.fi

The screening data are collected in patient documents that are kept confidential. Source of address: Population Information System, Population Register Centre, PO Box 70, 00581 Helsinki.

The screening laboratory is Fimlab Laboratories. The controller for the personal data processed in Fimlab is the invitee's municipality of residence, which carries out the screening. To implement screening, the data are stored in Fimlab's laboratory information system and register, and in the personal database of the Pirkanmaa Hospital District. For more information on Fimlab's data protection practices, visit www.fimlab.fi/tietosuoja (in Finnish).

WHAT?

Colorectal cancer means cancers of the colon and the rectum. Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in Finland: over 3,000 people are diagnosed with colorectal cancer and over 1,000 die of it every year. Colorectal cancer screening strives to detect the cancer at the symptomless early stage. The aim of screening is to reduce deaths caused by colorectal cancer.

WHY?

Colorectal cancer generally develops over the years through precancerous lesions, when cells in the mucous membrane of the bowels start to become malignant. In the early stages, the disease often has no symptoms, or the symptoms are vague.

Early on, an intestinal tumour may bleed slightly. The screening test allows the blood to be detected in the stool before it is visible to the naked eye. In consequence, the disease can be detected at an early stage and treated before the cancer develops further.

FOR WHOM?

This year, screening for colorectal cancer is offered to people 60, 62, 64 and 66 years of age. In the future, the screening will expand into a national programme sending invitations to all 60 - 74 year-olds. You will get an invitation for screening every two years. Screening is part of your own municipality's health care.

HOW?

The screening sample is taken at home by brushing the test stick in the stool. Instructions for sampling are given on a separate sheet. The sample for examination is posted to the screening laboratory in the cardboard envelope enclosed in the package. The postage for the return envelope is prepaid. The test doesn't cost you anything.

RESULT?

The screening laboratory examines the sample and sends a letter about the result within one month of receiving the test. In most cases, the result is normal; in other words, no blood was found in the sample.

Approximately four out of every 100 people have a positive test result, which means that the stool contains hidden blood. If blood is detected, you are asked to come for the necessary further examinations.

Most often, blood is found in stool for reasons other than cancer, such as haemorrhoids, intestinal inflammation or benign tumours.

RECOGNISE THE SYMPTOMS

Possible symptoms of colorectal cancer include the following:

- A new change in bowel activity (such as abdominal pain, constipation or diarrhoea)
- Bleeding from the anus, blood in stools or black stools
- Anaemia and fatigue or unexplained weight loss

If the symptom persists without a clear cause, contact your doctor. Do this even if you have just taken part or were going to take part in the screening soon. However, it is good to remember that in most cases the symptoms aren't caused by cancer.