

BLACK LUNG SCREENINGS



Eligibility & Requirements

Who can be screened

Coal miners and contractors working in coal mines can get voluntary screenings about every 5 years during their mine's scheduled 6-month window.

New coal miners and contractors

Required exams are offered within 30 days of starting work and again after 3 years. If lung disease is found, you are required to participate in a follow-up exam within the next 2 years.

Why should I participate?

Participation is free to you. Screenings include:

- Chest x-ray
- Spirometry (breathing test)
- Blood pressure screening
- Work history
- Health questionnaire

Your screening results provide you with information about your health and allow you to make informed decisions throughout your coal mining career.

Do I have to visit an approved NIOSH facility?

Yes. Screening is free to you when you visit a NIOSH-approved facility listed on your mine's plan during their 6-month open period.

How long will it take to receive my results?

Results are mailed directly to you within 12 weeks after your screening.

Who sees my screening results?

Your results are private. They are mailed only to you. With your permission, NIOSH can also send them to your doctor.

NIOSH uses combined results from coal miners to track black lung trends—no individuals are identified.

Employers do not receive your results. They are only notified if you choose to transfer to a lower-dust job.*

*For more information on qualifying and exercising your rights to transfer to a lower-dust job, visit MSHA's Part 90 for Coal Miners webpage at: <https://www.msha.gov/part-90-coal-miners>.

The NIOSH Coal Workers' Health Surveillance Program (CWHSP) was established by the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. The CWHSP's mission is to detect lung disease in coal miners. The program offers health screenings for coal miners and allows researchers to identify disease trends across the nation.



Contact the CWHSP at

1-888-480-4042

cwhsp@cdc.gov

