

Chest X-ray

What is a chest x-ray?

A chest x-ray, or radiograph, is a picture of the internal organs of the chest, including the lungs, heart, ribs, spine, and other organs.

Your doctor has determined that a chest x-ray is needed to help diagnose your specific symptoms, or to check your heart and lungs if you recently had surgery. Chest x-rays also are done before surgery to find any changes that may cause problems while you have surgery.

How do I get ready for a chest x-ray?

There are no special preparations for a chest x-ray. You may be asked to change into a hospital gown. Buttons, zippers, jewelry, bra clasps or other metal can show on the x-ray so they need to be removed before the x-ray is done.

If you are pregnant, or think you might be, tell the radiologist or technologist before the x-ray is taken.

How is a chest x-ray done?

In most cases, two pictures will be taken. For the first picture, you will be asked to stand facing a special board. The technologist will have you roll your arms forward to move your shoulder blades apart. You will need to take in a deep breath and hold your breath in. This helps get a good picture of your lungs.

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The second picture is done as you stand with your left side against the board with your arms raised above your head. This position keeps your arms out of the picture. Again, you will need to take in a deep breath and hold it.

You will then be asked to wait for a few minutes while the pictures are developed and checked. This takes only about five minutes.

What should I do after the chest x-ray?

You may resume your normal routine after having a chest x-ray. A report will be sent to your doctor who will then talk to you about the results of your x-ray.

If you have questions

If you have any questions or concerns about having an x-ray, please call us at (614) 293-4333. Our receptionist will direct your call to a staff member who will answer your questions.

Where is my x-ray to be done?

- OSU Medical Center**, located at 410 West 10th Ave. Columbus, Ohio (2nd floor Doan Hall) - Open 24 hours. To reschedule, call (614) 293-6816.
- Stoneridge Imaging Center**, located at 4037 West Dublin-Granville Road in Dublin. The phone number is (614) 293-0054. X-ray patients may walk-in between the hours of 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.
- Martha Morehouse Medical Plaza Pavilion** (the shorter building), located at 2050 Kenny Road, Suite 1072 in Columbus. Hours are 7:30 am - 5:00 pm. Call (614) 293-5700.
- University Hospital East**, located at 1492 East Broad Street in Columbus. Hours are 7:00 am - 6:00 pm. Call (614) 257-3660.

For recorded driving directions please call (614) 293-2678 or 1-800-293-5123.

- Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.**