



Worker Health Protection Program at Los Alamos and Sandia-NM National Laboratories: Former Worker Screening Program Fact Sheet



The Department of Energy (DOE) Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP)¹ announces the **introduction of an *early lung cancer screening program***, with annual low-dose chest CT scans for high-risk former workers² from Los Alamos and Sandia-NM National Laboratories, and ***expanded availability of medical screening exams*** to detect work-related diseases for all former Los Alamos and Sandia-NM workers who have served the Nation in its national security and other missions. This FWP is sponsored by the City University of New York and Johns Hopkins University.

New FWP Early Lung Cancer Screening Program in New Mexico

- ❖ Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in New Mexico. Without screening, lung cancer is usually found in late stages with unlikely long-term survival. With low-dose chest CT screening, lung cancer can be found early, and cure is likely.
- ❖ Former DOE workers who meet high risk eligibility criteria² will be offered free annual low dose chest CT scans for early lung cancer detection.
- ❖ Annual low dose CT scans for eligible DOE workers will be provided through the FWP at local radiology facilities in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Los Alamos.
- ❖ Former workers with positive CT results will follow-up with local healthcare providers for diagnosis and treatment.
- ❖ Lung cancer screening through the FWP will improve early detection and reduce lung cancer deaths.

New Mexico Fast Facts

- ❖ In New Mexico, only 2% of those eligible for lung cancer screening have enrolled. New Mexico also has lower early diagnosis and lung cancer survival rates compared to national rates.
- ❖ There are an estimated 55,000 former Los Alamos and Sandia workers, mostly residing in New Mexico, who are eligible for FWP occupational disease screening.
- ❖ The FWP has served 4,067 former DOE workers in New Mexico since 2000: nearly 500 (12.6%) have x-ray evidence of work-related dust lung diseases; 224 (7.7%) have likely chronic obstructive lung disease; and 128 (3.4%) have at least one positive beryllium lymphocyte blood test. At least 500 occupational medical exams will be offered each year beginning in 2024.

For more information, visit the Worker Health Protection Program at <http://www.worker-health.org/>

¹ Occupational health experts at the City University of New York and the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health independently administer the FWP program in New Mexico, with funds provided by the DOE through a cooperative agreement (Award Number DE-FC01-06EH06008).

² Eligibility criteria for high-risk former workers include work exposures, chronic lung disease, smoking, and age.