



Press Release

Media Contact

Matthew Kempton | mkempton@willapa.net
360-875-4528

New 3D Mammograms at Willapa Harbor Hospital to Improve Breast Cancer Screenings for Pacific County Residents

Newly installed technology the result of an aggressive fundraising campaign in 2020.

SOUTH BEND, Wash. (May 5, 2021) – Enhanced breast cancer screening becomes a reality in Pacific County when Willapa Harbor Hospital launches its new 3D Mammogram software on May 3, 2021. The latest software upgrade at the local hospital resulted from a 3 month-long fundraising campaign last fall that resulted in more than \$90,000 needed for the investment.

“Next-generation breast cancer screening is finally here,” says Matthew Kempton, CEO of Willapa Harbor Hospital. “This milestone is the result of tireless work and endless planning, and I could not be any more proud of our hospital, team members, and community.”

Breast cancer screening services have been available at Willapa Harbor Hospital for more than two decades through a two-dimensional (2D) mammography image. Since then, technology has quickly advanced, and upgrading to the latest technology became a priority for the hospital.

Available in most urban hospitals, 3D mammography offers greater comfort during screenings while dramatically improving the sensitivity and image resolution specificity for greater diagnostic accuracy. This sharper, more detailed image means a reduction in radiation.

“The new Fuji 3D software produces images that can be viewed in thin slices, allowing medical professionals to view breast tissue in layers,” Kempton explains. “As a result, any tissue abnormalities can be more easily observed compared to images captured by older 2D technology.”

Breast cancer is a malignant tumor that develops from breast tissue. Aside from early detection through screenings such as mammograms, the first noticeable symptom is typically a lump seen or felt in or around the breast.

In 2021 alone, it is estimated that 6,800 women in Washington will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Upwards of 940 women in the state are expected to die because of the disease.

MORE

Willapa Harbor Hospital

800 Alder St. | South Bend, WA 98586 | 360-875-5526 | willapaharborhospital.com



New 3D Mammograms at Willapa Harbor Hospital to Improve Breast Cancer Screenings for Pacific County Residents

Page 2

The American College of Radiology guidelines recommend women ages 40 and older should get a mammogram annually.

Mammograms with the new 3D software are available at Willapa Harbor Hospital beginning May 3, 2021. Medicare, Medicaid, and most private health plans cover all or part of breast cancer screenings.

Women are urged to check with their medical insurance providers to learn more about coverage, but they should not delay having these essential screenings.

Our 3D Mammographer, Kate Spoor, RT (R)(M), grew up in Menlo, Washington and attended Willapa Valley High School. She is married with two young children. Kate received her Radiology Technologist degree in 2012 from Wenatchee Valley College and her Mammography Certification in 2015. We are excited that she is part of our Radiology team.

For more information about mammograms and other cancer screenings, talk with your primary care provider or call the Willapa Harbor Hospital imaging department at 360-875-4505.

About Willapa Harbor Hospital

Founded in 1954, Willapa Harbor Hospital serves the healthcare needs of north Pacific County residents. The hospital offers a wealth of medical services, including in-patient care, a Level V 24-hour trauma center, advanced radiology services (including CT, MRIs, ultrasound, and mammograms), an outpatient lab, surgical and endoscopy services, diabetic education, and more. Willapa Harbor Hospital also operates the Willapa Medical Clinic. For more information, please visit www.willapaharborhospital.com.

###