

ColonCancerCheck: Key Changes in Effect on July 1, 2026

June 2026

Changes to ColonCancerCheck, Ontario Health's provincial colorectal cancer screening program, take effect on July 1, 2026. See below the OCFP's summary of key changes as well as this [two-page reference guide on ColonCancerCheck screening recommendations](#) from Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario).

A snapshot of the major changes taking effect July 1, 2026:

1. Start screening average risk patients at age 45 (previously 50).
2. Start screening increased risk patients at age 40 (previously 50), or 10 years earlier than the age the youngest relative was diagnosed (whichever comes first).
3. If only 1 first-degree relative has been diagnosed with colorectal cancer aged 60+, the patient is now considered average risk.
4. Start faxing all new FIT requisitions to a lab called In-Common Laboratories (ICL) instead of LifeLabs. For information about account setup, please visit [Frequently Asked Questions for Primary Care Providers](#) (PDF).



Top 2 things to do between now and July 1, 2026:

1. Add the new FIT requisition form from your EMR and/or download from Ontario Health.
2. Register at iclabs.ca/FIT/reports for online reporting, once available.

***ICL Account Setup:** You need an ICL account to receive FIT results. In most cases, ICL will automatically set up your account if you have submitted a FIT requisition to LifeLabs in the past two years, or the first time you submit a FIT requisition to ICL. If your contact details need to be confirmed, ICL will be in touch.



Program Changes

ColonCancerCheck program changes that reflect the evolving evidence on colorectal cancer.



	Average Risk	Increased Risk
Definition	<p>1. Individuals ages 45 to 74 who have no personal history of colorectal cancer, pre-cancerous colorectal polyps needing surveillance, Crohn’s disease involving the colon or ulcerative colitis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>2. No first-degree relatives (parents, siblings or children) diagnosed with colorectal cancer OR any of the following types of family history:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 1 first-degree relative diagnosed with colorectal cancer at age 60 or older • One or more first-degree relatives diagnosed with colorectal polyps, including high-risk adenomas and polyps of unknown histology • One or more second-degree relatives, including grandparents, grandchildren, sibling’s children, and parent’s siblings, diagnosed with colorectal cancer or colorectal polyps at any age. 	<p>Only 1 first-degree relative (parent, sibling, child) diagnosed with colorectal cancer before age 60</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>2 or more first-degree relatives diagnosed with colorectal cancer at any age.</p>
Start Age for Screening	Start screening at age 45 (previously 50).	Start screening at age 40 (previously 50), or 10 years earlier than the age the youngest relative was diagnosed, whichever comes first.
Screening Interval	Continue FIT testing every 2 years if prior result was normal.	Screening with colonoscopy is now every 5 years if prior colonoscopy found no polyps, small (<10 mm) hyperplastic polyps in the rectum or sigmoid, 1 or 2 low risk adenoma(s), or low risk sessile serrated lesion(s).
Invitation Letters	<p>Beginning July 1, your eligible patients aged 45-49 will start to receive letters by mail from the ColonCancerCheck program to invite them to screen.</p> <p>Letters will be rolled out over two years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An eligible patient who has yet to receive their invitation to screen can also get a FIT kit if requested by you after July 1. <p>Eligible people without a family physician or nurse practitioner can get a free ColonCancerCheck FIT kit by calling 811 (TTY: 711) after July 1.</p>	<p>Ontario Health does not have information on people’s family history so they do not send letters specific to people at increased risk; however, if your patients are overdue for screening, they will receive an invitation letter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These letters include information about colorectal cancer and direct participants to speak to their family physician or nurse practitioner if they have a first-degree relative diagnosed with colon cancer. • You are encouraged to identify your patients at increased risk due to family history and, if eligible, refer them for colonoscopy. <p><i>For more info, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions for Primary Care Providers (PDF).</i></p>



Stop Age for Screening



Stop age recommendation for increased risk patients is now the same as for average risk.

- Age 74: End routine screening
- Age 75-85: Can choose to get screened if the benefits outweigh the risks and their health, life expectancy, and prior screening history are considered
- Age 86+: Strongly recommend against screening

Communicating Results



Ontario Health will send your patients a result letter including recommended next steps.

- **In the case of abnormal test results, contact your patient** to communicate the result, provide support and refer for a follow-up colonoscopy as soon as possible.

FIT Information for Patients



- FIT instructions in English and French are included in the FIT kit. Starting July 1, 2026, FIT instructions for the public in more than 35 additional languages will be available at ontariohealth.ca/fitinstructions.
- Participants who do not complete and return FIT within 2 months will receive a reminder letter from Ontario Health.



Process Changes

In addition to the program changes to ColonCancerCheck, Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) is introducing the following process changes, including a new FIT device and requisition form, lab/account set up, and FIT results process.



Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) Device

The FIT kit will include a **new FIT device**. It looks similar to the previous FIT device except it has a pink twist-to-close cap to prevent leakage (instead of a snap closure).

Lab | FIT Requisition Form

Starting July 1, 2026, **In-Common Laboratories (ICL)** will manage distribution and analysis (testing) of ColonCancerCheck FIT devices. *You can learn more about ICL and their mandate at iclabs.ca.*



- Starting July 1, use this **FIT Requisition Form**, which will also be available in Ontario MD-certified EMRs. You can add the form to your custom forms library or upload it manually. Contact support@ontariomd.com if you need help.
- Submit requisitions directly to ICL by **fax to 1-833-520-1544**; FIT kits will be mailed to participants, as previously.
- Continue to **send requests for FIT to LifeLabs up to and including June 30, 2026**. LifeLabs will process and test any outstanding, unexpired kits that are already in circulation until June 30, 2027.

For more info, please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions for Primary Care Providers \(PDF\)](#).

ICL Account Setup

You **need an ICL account** to receive FIT results.



- ICL will automatically set up your account if you have submitted a FIT requisition to LifeLabs in the past two years, or the first time you submit a FIT requisition to ICL. If your contact details need to be confirmed, ICL will be in touch.
- If you have not submitted a FIT requisition to LifeLabs in the past two years or ICL had to confirm your fax number, you will need to complete a one-time short fax verification step to get FIT results:
 - Watch for the verification form ICL will fax to you, and
 - Sign the form and fax it back to ICL.
- ICL will still process requisitions (i.e., mail FIT kits) and test completed FITs even if fax verification is pending. However, you will not receive faxed provider reports until the fax verification step is complete. Results will still be available in OLIS.
- Account set-up is required for each of your working addresses or locations and fax numbers. If you practice at multiple sites, use multiple fax numbers or work as a locum, each location will need a separate account, and each fax number must be verified separately.

For more info, please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions for Primary Care Providers \(PDF\)](#).



Receiving Test Results

Reporting Methods

- ICL will fax test results and rejections directly to you.
- ICL will also submit test results and rejections electronically to OLIS, which can be retrieved through OntarioMD-certified EMRs or ConnectingOntario Clinical Viewer in the same way as all test results for individual patients.

Future EMR Integration

Ontario Health is working with OntarioMD-certified EMRs to make FIT results directly available within these EMRs. Certified EMRs are developing a “practitioner query” function that will automatically pull OLIS results into providers’ EMRs at timed intervals. Timelines for implementation vary by EMR vendor.



If EMR reporting will be your preferred method once available:

- Complete the reporting preference form at iclabs.ca/FIT/reports
- By completing this form, ICL will switch your reporting method from fax to EMR once the feature becomes available in your EMR.
- You can contact your EMR vendor directly if you have questions about how to access FIT results through your EMR.

Questions

Contact ICL: 1-833-FIT-POOP (1-833-348-7667), Mon. to Sun. 7 am to 7 pm (ET) | iclabs.ca/FIT
For more info, please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions for Primary Care Providers \(PDF\)](#).

Resource Guide

- OCFP Changing the Way We Work Webinar: Infectious Disease & The ColonCancerCheck (CCC) Program. [Watch the recording here.](#)
- To request a recording of the provincial webinar on ColonCancerCheck Program updates presented by Ontario Health, please email CCC_GIEndo@ontariohealth.ca.
- Access the screening tool: [Guide to Colorectal Screening in Ontario](#).
- Access the [ColonCancerCheck Resource Hub](#).
- [Frequently Asked Questions for Primary Care Providers \(PDF\)](#).