

You may notice that you are not offered a lead shield during your imaging exam today.

In July of 2020, UVA Health joined medical centers around the world in discontinuing the use of lead shielding for patients during imaging exams. We recognize that this is a change in how things have been done in the past. The decision to change this traditional practice was made after extensive and careful consideration by a team of technologists, physicians, and physicists. The American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) and the American College of Radiology (ACR) support no longer using shields for imaging exams.

Below is a list of reasons why radiation shielding provides no additional benefit to your health:

- 1. The amount of radiation emitted by imaging machines is significantly lower than it was several decades ago, and it is now safe to have imaging exams without shielding.**
- 2. Scientists have found no evidence that ovaries, testicles, or fetuses are harmed by radiation exposure from a diagnostic imaging exam.**
- 3. Lead shields are difficult to position accurately, even for highly trained technologists, and may unintentionally cover up anatomy that your doctor actually needs to see for a diagnosis.**
- 4. Due to the above, radiation shielding may cause a repeat imaging exam.**
- 5. Lead shields may decrease the quality of the imaging.**

If you have further questions about this new process, please speak to your technologist or email: patient_shield@hscmail.mcc.virginia.edu