



DFWBGH Media Contact:
Cary Conway
cary@conwaycommunication.com
972.649.4707

News Release

DFWBGH Releases New Findings and Employer Actions to Address Cancer Care Delayed During the Pandemic

DALLAS-FORT WORTH, TX – November 16, 2022 – The DFW Business Group on Health (DFWBGH) has released its "[Mitigating the Impact of Delayed Cancer Care Report](#)," featuring two employer case studies of City of Plano and Oncor Electric Company. The complementary "[Employer Timely Cancer Care Toolkit](#)" turns the report's discoveries into actionable steps to support employers' efforts to increase lifesaving cancer screenings for employees and their families.

Pre-pandemic levels of cancer screenings were already far below national target goals. An estimated 10 million cancer screenings were missed during just the first few months of the pandemic due to restricted access to testing. Even as the pandemic abated in 2021, nearly two-thirds of Americans deferred their cancer screenings.

Concerned about the decline in early detection of cancer, City of Plano and Oncor Electric Co. evaluated their cancer screening rates before (2019) and during COVID (2020 and 2021) to see how the pandemic impacted cancer screening rates. They learned that cancer screenings of all types declined during the two-year pandemic, with the largest overall two-year drops in screenings for colorectal, lung, cervical and breast cancers. They also examined their employee benefits strategies, incentives, and communications to identify barriers and gaps, as well as opportunities to encourage timely cancer screenings going forward.

"Forward-thinking employers continually seek out best practices to support employees in many aspects of their lives, including the risk of serious illnesses like cancer," said Marianne Fazen, PhD, DFWBGH executive director. "Cancer is now the top driver of healthcare costs for most employers, and timely cancer screening is their primary tool to control these costs. The primary goal of our Delayed Cancer Care Project was to unite employers, employees, health plans, healthcare providers, pharmaceutical companies, and government agencies in closing gaps in the use of high-value cancer screenings, increase access to testing, and drive out health disparities."

Two significant hurdles to increasing cancer screening rates is employee understanding of the value of cancer screenings and removing obstacles to timely cancer care. Catching cancer early often boosts longer-term survival and results in less intensive and expensive treatment. Providing practical, easy-to-use tools for employers will contribute to catching up on missed cancer screenings and elevating the value of early detection through timely screenings to drive down the incidence of advanced cancer across the workforce.

About DFW Business Group on Health

The DFW Business Group on Health (DFWBGH) is a regional coalition of 55 DFW area employers committed to improving healthcare quality, costs, and outcomes in North Texas. DFWBGH members include American Airlines, Brinker International, Celanese, City of Fort Worth, City of Plano, Fluor Corp., Greyhound Lines, Jiffy Lube, Oncor Electric Co., The Neiman Marcus Group, 7-Eleven, Southwest Airlines, Texas Instruments, and others. A member of the Texas Business Group on Health and the National

Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, DFWBGH's mission is to educate and empower employers and their employees to make informed healthcare decisions and to encourage healthcare providers to continuously improve their performance. Follow on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and [dfwbgh.org](#)

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