



## Shielding is no longer required during your child's imaging study

In order to provide the highest-quality studies at the lowest risk to your child's health, Dell Children's Medical Center will no longer place lead shields or aprons on your child during an imaging study.

### What does shielding mean?

For many years, lead shields or aprons were placed on patients before imaging studies such as x-rays or CT scans, so body parts not being evaluated were protected from radiation exposure.

### Why is Dell Children's no longer using shields?

New research shows that shields are no longer needed because:

- modern imaging machines use very low and targeted radiation,
- shields do not provide any extra protection for your child, and
- wearing a shield may cause an increased amount of radiation when the shield covers part of the body being scanned, causing some imaging machines to use more radiation or requiring a study to be redone.

### Do imaging studies still use radiation?

Yes, imaging studies still use radiation; however, modern imaging machines use very low and targeted radiation.

### Am I at risk of radiation exposure while in the room with my child undergoing an imaging study?

Even though the amount of radiation is low and targeted, there is a small chance that others in the area could be exposed to the radiation. For this reason, everyone in the room beside the patient (including the caregivers and staff) will wear lead aprons during the imaging study to prevent exposure to radiation.

### What is Dell Children's policy on radiation exposure?

Our policy is to keep the levels of radiation exposure to the patient, patient's family, and our staff as low as possible. Our goal is to get the best images and keep your child safe.

### Who decided that shields are no longer needed?

Research and recommendations from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), American Association of Physicists in Medicine, Texas Department of State Health Services, and Ascension Texas Diagnostic Medical Physicists support not placing lead shields or aprons on patients during an imaging study.

### Questions?

Ask your imaging technologist or call Ascension Texas Diagnostic Medical Physicists: [512-324-3677](tel:512-324-3677)