

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release.

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Early Testing for Colorectal Cancer Saves Lives – PPHD Offers Free Test Kit

“Who wants a colonoscopy? No one raises their hand! We’ve all heard or tried not to hear the message.” Speaking as a cancer survivor, Dr. Phillip Kesterson of Bridgeport NE can attest to the importance to get serious about screening.

“I’m here today telling you that utilizing modern technology to catch this condition early can be life-saving. So, if you’re 50 years old or younger and at risk, get serious and get screened. Raise your hand, the disease really is worse than the cure!”

We ask you take this message to heart and get tested today. Panhandle residents age 50 or older can contact PPHD at 1-855-227-2217 for a free FOBT kit.

Screening tests find colon cancer early, when treatment works best and the chance for a full recovery is 90%. It is important to be proactive about screening for colorectal cancer, as over 900 Nebraska residents are diagnosed each year. Colorectal cancers are the second leading cause of all deaths from cancer in the United States.

“Because people often don’t have any symptoms in the early stages of colon cancer, having regular screening tests beginning at age 50 is the most effective way to reduce your risk of colon cancer,” said Cheri Farris, Community Health Educator for PPHD.

“You may need to be tested earlier or more often than other people if you or a close relative have had colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer, or if you have inflammatory bowel disease,” she added. Talk to your medical provider if you are under 50 and at risk.

An FOBT kit is a simple screening test that detects hidden blood in the stool. It can be completed in the privacy of your own home and mailed to a laboratory. The results are sent to you and your doctor.

If the FOBT kit detects hidden blood in the stool a follow-up colonoscopy will be recommended. PPHD can assist with planning follow-up care as needed.

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month and the Nebraska Colon Cancer Screening Program and Panhandle Public Health District are working together to improve colon cancer screening rates in Nebraska by offering free fecal occult blood test (FOBT) kits to Panhandle residents through June.

For more information visit www.pphd.org. Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety and quality of life for all who live, learn, work and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community.