

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release.

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Colon Cancer Screening Encouraged for Men and Women Older than 50

Colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the United States and is the fourth leading cause of cancer death. Colon cancer claims the lives of about 52,000 men and women each year. The good news is that colon cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable.

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month, and the Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD) is working with partners in the Panhandle Cancer Coalition and the Nebraska Colon Cancer Screening program to raise awareness about screening for colon cancer by giving out FREE fecal occult blood test (FOBT) kits to Panhandle residents age 50 and older.

Beginning at age 50 both men and women should get screened at routine intervals. You may need to be tested earlier or more often if you or a close family member has had colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer, or if you have inflammatory bowel disease.

“Colon cancer occurs more often in Nebraska than in the rest of the United States,” said Dr. Joseph Acierno, Chief Medical Officer and Director of Public Health for DHHS. “More Nebraskans are receiving colon cancer screenings than ever before which is encouraging, but the state’s colon cancer incidence rate is 44.3 per 100,000 which is higher than the national rate of 39.7. There’s still more progress to be made and more lives to be saved.”

“We want to make a difference in the lives of our community members, their families and friends,” said Becky Corman, Registered Nurse with PPHD and coordinator of the Panhandle Cancer Coalition. When colorectal cancer is found early and treated, the chance for a full recovery is very high. Getting screened for colorectal cancer could save your life. Get screened today. For a FREE colon cancer screening kit contact Panhandle Public Health District at 1-855-227-2217.

Additional information about the Nebraska Colon Cancer Screening Program in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is available by calling the Nebraska Colon Cancer Screening Program at 1-800-532-2227 or can be found at www.dhhs.ne.gov/crc.

For additional 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.