



News from Livingston County, NY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 1, 2019

Contact: Lori McEvoy, Dept. of Health

Phone: 585-243-7270

Email: dept-of-health@co.livingston.ny.us

CANCER SERVICES PROGRAM SUPPORTS NATIONAL INITIATIVE 80% in Every Community Can Reduce Colon Cancer Death Rate

Mt.Morris, NY —The Cancer Services Program of the Finger Lakes Region joins others across the State to support the *80% in Every Community* initiative which aims to substantially reduce colorectal cancer as a major public health problem by increasing the screening rate for colorectal cancer to 80%. This initiative will build on the tremendous success of the previous initiative, *"80% by 2018,"* launched by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable in March 2014. The Livingston County Department of Health and the Cancer Services Program of the Finger Lakes Region will join with village officials and local partners to kick-off the 8th annual "Main Streets Go Blue" initiative in Livingston County on Monday, March 4th, 12:00 PM at St. Agnes School in Avon. This annual campaign marks the beginning of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and the importance of cancer screening and early detection.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in New York State. Each year, more than 9,000 New Yorkers get colorectal cancer and more than 3,000 die as a result. Yet, with recommended screening, the number of people who die from colorectal cancer could be lowered by at least 60%.

According to the most recent data (2017), 70.1% of New York State adults ages 50 to 75 years were screened for colorectal cancer. This is a slight increase from 68.5% in the previous year. Consistent across both reports is the fact that individuals without insurance and individuals without a health care provider are less likely to be screened than individuals with insurance and those who have a health care provider. The data show that other opportunities to increase the screening rate are to focus on men and individuals in the 50-64 age range.

"The CSP stands ready in our community to join health clinics, health plans, employers, county government, and others to achieve an 80% screening rate or higher. While our main focus is to provide cancer screening services to the uninsured, we are excited to partner with organizations interested in implementing evidence-based practices to increase their screening rates and potentially save lives," said Jennifer Rodriguez, Public Health Director of the Livingston County Department of Health.

Screening is recommended for all men and women ages 50 to 75 years. Individuals with a personal or family history of colon polyps, colorectal cancer, or a personal history of inflammatory bowel disease, are at higher risk for developing colorectal cancer and should talk to their doctors about when to begin screening and how often they should be tested.

The CSP of the Finger Lakes Region offers colorectal cancer screening to people without insurance who qualify for the program. Call 1-866-442-2262 or 585-224-3070 for more information.

The New York State Cancer Services Program (CSP) provides breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings and diagnostic services at no cost to women and men who live in New York State, do not have health insurance, have health insurance with a cost share that makes the cost of screening too high, and meet the program rules for age and income. To find a Cancer Services Program visit http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/cancer/services/community_resources/ or call 1-866-442-CANCER (2262).

###