

NEWS RELEASE

June 19, 2017

For Immediate Release

Contact: Denise Garey, Public Information Officer – 308-345-4223

Free FOBT Kits at Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department for Colorectal Cancer Screening

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) will have free fecal occult blood test (FOBT) kits available at both their McCook and Imperial offices to screen for Colorectal Cancer.

“For anyone ages 50-75, they can stop at our offices or Quality Healthcare Clinic in Benkelman and get a FOBT kit,” explains SWNPHD Public Health Nurse Crystal Bright, LPN. “Colorectal cancer is nearly preventable and can be easily checked through this at-home kit. Each person will be responsible for mailing their kit in the enclosed envelope to the lab for testing.”

SWNPHD is providing these kits through a grant with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Screening tests are used to look for colorectal cancer when a person doesn't have any symptoms. The best method of screening for colorectal cancer is to have a colonoscopy.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer of cancers affecting both men and women. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, your risk of getting colorectal cancer increases as you get older with more than 90% of cases occurring in people age 50 or older.

Risk Factors for Colorectal Cancer:

- Inflammatory bowel disease such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.
- A family history of colorectal cancer or colorectal polyps.
- Obesity, alcohol consumption and tobacco use.

For more information on programs at SWNPHD view our website at www.swhealth.ne.gov. SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10th Street, McCook – one block north of Arby's and 501 Broadway, Imperial – 5th Street entrance.

You can also follow us on Facebook.com/swnphd and Twitter@swpublichealth. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins and Red Willow counties.

####