



Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



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PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local News Media

From: Central Michigan District Health Department

RE: National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

CMDHD offers free breast and cervical cancer screenings to qualified women

This October, Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) is proud to support National Breast Cancer Awareness Month – a time to promote regular breast cancer screening and early detection of breast cancer. Breast cancer is a type of cancer that starts in the breast; it occurs almost entirely in women and rarely in men. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in American women except for skin cancers. The average risk of a woman in the United States developing breast cancer sometime in her life is about 13%. This means there is a 1 in 8 chance she will develop breast cancer. American Cancer Society estimates 287,850 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women in 2022. An expected 51,400 new cases of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) will be diagnosed. About 43,250 women will die from breast cancer (Cancer.org, 2022). It is very important to get regular screenings, like mammograms, that can help detect breast cancer early. Detecting cancer early increases the effectiveness of available treatments (American Cancer Society, 2020). Programs are available to assist with the costs of having a mammogram.

A mammogram is a low-dose x-ray picture of the breast. Doctors use a mammogram to look for early signs of breast cancer. Women between 40-44 years old have the option to start screening with a mammogram every year. Women 45-54 years old should get mammograms every year. Women 55 and older can switch to a mammogram every other year, or they can choose to continue yearly mammograms. Screening should continue if a woman is in good health and is expected to live at least 10 more years. The median age of diagnosis is slightly younger for black women (60 years old) compared to white women (63 years old). Black women have the highest death rate from breast cancer. This is thought to be partially because 1 in 5 black women with breast cancer have triple-negative breast cancer -- more than any other racial/ethnic group. Asian/Pacific Islanders have the

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lowest death rate from breast cancer. American Indian/Alaska Natives have the lowest rate of developing breast cancer. Currently there are more than 3.8 million breast cancer survivors in the United States (Cancer.org, 2022).

Central Michigan District Health Department participates in the Michigan Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Navigation Program (BC3NP). This program provides free annual breast and cervical cancer screenings and diagnostic services to eligible women. To be eligible for the program, a woman must be between age 40 and 64, have no insurance or an insurance with a high deductible, and meet income requirements. Women between the ages of 21-39 who are referred to the BC3NP with an abnormal screening pap test, clinical breast exam or abnormal mammogram (which requires breast or cervical diagnostic services) may also be eligible for services. Women who are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the program or through another care provider without insurance may be eligible for Medicaid for their treatment. If you do not fit the eligibility, please call to find out about other programs that may be able to assist you. CMDHD also offers navigation services for women with insurance who need help accessing their services. They can help make appointments, find transportation, or further explain the breast and cervical cancer screening process. For more information or to schedule an appointment for breast and cervical cancer screenings, contact your local CMDHD branch office.

Arenac County: 989-846-6541 ext. 1316

Isabella County: 989-773-5921 ext. 1406

Clare County: 989-539-6731 ext. 1216

Osceola County: 231-832-5532 ext. 1216

Gladwin County: 989-426-9431 ext. 1316

Roscommon County: 989-366-9166 ext. 1316

For additional information about the BC3NP, please visit www.michigan.gov/BC3NP.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org and follow [Central Michigan District Health Department](#) on Facebook.

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References:

American Cancer Society, (2021). [Cancer Facts and Figures](#).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (2020). [Breast Cancer](#).

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (2016). [Breast Cancer Screening Final Recommendations](#).

To request an interview, please visit our website (cmdhd.org) and fill out the [Media Interview Request Form](#).