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For more information, contact: Cheri Farris, Community Health Educator, 308-220-8020, cfarris@pphd.org

Panhandle Public Health District Joins #DressinBlueNE Effort to Fight Back Against Colon Cancer

February 24, 2021 — Panhandle Public Health District has announced it will join the statewide effort organized by the Great Plains Colon Cancer Task Force and the Nebraska Cancer Coalition to help raise awareness of lifesaving colon cancer screening during Colon Cancer Awareness month and Dress in Blue Day on **Friday, March 5**.

Share your photos on PPHD's Facebook page with the hashtag #DressinBlueNE to show your support for Colon Cancer Awareness this March 5th.

Colorectal cancer is the second deadliest form of cancer in the U.S., affecting men and women of all racial and ethnic groups. Undergoing screening, especially for those ages 50 or older, can stop cancer before it starts or identify it early enough to provide the best prognosis for recovery.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a significant decrease in colon cancer screening, threatening to regress years of progress toward early detection and treatment of the disease. In 2020, there were an estimated 1.7 million missed colonoscopies nationwide as four out of every 10 Americans delayed or avoided medical care during the pandemic because of concerns about COVID-19.

There are multiple safe, affordable options available for screening, including free, at-home test kits available statewide. Individuals are encouraged to contact their primary care provider to start a conversation about screening.

If you are between ages 45-74 and live in the Nebraska Panhandle area, visit http://pphd.org/Pages/colon_cancer_prevention.htm to find out more and request your free at home test kit. You can complete the enrollment form here to receive your kit in the mail https://nalhd.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1BxamMHeOqpYIQG

About Great Plains Colon Cancer Task Force

The [Great Plains Colon Cancer Task Force](#) is dedicated to increasing the number of lives saved from colon cancer through education, early detection and prevention. The nonprofit organization formed in 1999 and is a collaboration of health organizations, businesses, colon cancer survivors and volunteers throughout the community who are engaged in a comprehensive effort to get the community talking about colon cancer and to provide free colon cancer screenings and resources.

About Nebraska Cancer Coalition

The [Nebraska Cancer Coalition](#) (NC2) is a statewide partnership of 350 individuals representing 200 public and private organizations. Our partners work together to prevent and control cancer, and the economic and psychosocial effects the disease can impose on families, their friends and within our communities. NC2 works toward implementing the goals and objectives outlined in the [Nebraska Cancer Plan](#).