

Jeb Bush
Governor



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Secretary, Department of Health

PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month

Are you at risk for colon cancer?

Colon cancer can affect anyone – men and women alike – and risk increases with age. Starting at age 50, men and women who are at average risk of colorectal cancer should be screened regularly. Nearly 90 percent of all cases of cancer are diagnosed in people older than 50.

Some men and women are at higher risk of the disease and may need to be tested earlier. African Americans appear to be at higher risk for the disease and are often diagnosed at a younger age. They may need to begin screening at age 45. Others at higher risk include:

- Individuals with a personal or family history of benign colorectal polyps;
- Individuals with a personal or family history of colorectal cancer;
- Individuals with a personal or family history of inflammatory bowel disease, such as ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease; and
- Individuals who use tobacco, drink too much alcohol, are overweight or do not lead an active life.

To find out more about colon cancer and screening for colon cancer, call the Pinellas County Health Department at (727) 824-6999 or visit www.cancer.org

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The mission of the Pinellas County Health Department is to promote, protect and improve the health and safety of residents and visitors through public and private community efforts.
www.PinellasHealth.com