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NEWS RELEASE

03 / 08 / 2023

City Offers Screenings during Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Public Health Officials Aim to Reduce Cancer Rates, Save Lives

El Paso, **Texas**—The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is celebrating Colorectal Cancer awareness month by reminding the public about the City's free screenings for qualifying individuals 50 to 75 years old.

In recognition of Colon Cancer Awareness Month, DPH staff will offer information during the *Love Your Colon* Health Fair taking place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 11, at Bassett Place, 6101 Gateway Blvd.

The City's Medicaid Waiver Program, in partnership with the Southwest Coalition for Colorectal Cancer Screening (SuCCCes), focus on reducing the number of deaths and new cases of colorectal cancer in the community. SuCCCes is a Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center-El Paso led collaboration among public, private, nonprofit, and for-profit health service providers.

"With more than 135,000 cases of colorectal cancer diagnosed each year in the United States, we need to raise awareness and not forget about cancer screening with a simple test," said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City-County Health Authority. "March being Colorectal Cancer Awareness month is the perfect time to remind all individuals over the age of 50 to schedule a visit with your healthcare provider for screening and to learn more about this disease."

The coalition and the Medicaid Waiver Program provide education and access to no-cost Colorectal Cancer screening for eligible men and women.

Program qualifications are as follows:

- Participants must be 50 to 75 years of age
- Uninsured/underinsured, Medicaid recipient
- Not up-to-date with colorectal cancer screening

For more information visit <u>EPHealth.com</u> under the <u>Medicaid Waiver Tab</u> or call (915) 252-5349.

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