2019 Colorectal Cancer Fact Sheet

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
Colon & rectal cancers are referred to as “colorectal cancer” and abbreviated “CRC

About Colorectal Cancer:
• 2nd leading cause of cancer death among men & women combined
• 3rd most commonly diagnosed cancer
• 140,250 estimated new cases in 2018
• 50,630 estimated deaths in 2018
• 1 in 20 people will be diagnosed in their lifetimes
• 1 in 3 people are not up-to-date with screening
• 30+ million, ages 50-75, are not up-to-date on screening
• 60% of deaths could be prevented with screening

Hereditary/Genetic Stats:
• People with a first-degree relative (parent, sibling or child) with colon cancer are between two to three times more likely to develop the cancer than those without a family history.
• 25% of people diagnosed with colorectal cancer have a family history.

Early-Age Onset (under 45) Incidence:
• Data suggests that the incidence of colorectal cancer for those under 50 is on the rise and more young people are being diagnosed with colorectal cancer.
• 10-11% of colon cancers and 18% of rectal cancers are diagnosed in individuals under the age of 50
• Up to 22% of colorectal cancer cases diagnosed before the age of 50 are associated hereditary cancer syndromes; additional cases are related to inflammatory bowel disease.
• Colorectal cancers in individuals under 50 are more likely associated with symptoms. It’s very important to seek medical care for unexplained persistent rectal bleeding and other signs and symptoms.

Resources:
American Cancer Society:
https://cancerstatisticscenter.cancer.org/##/cancer-site/Colorectum
National Cancer Institute:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/sfl/index.htm