

## Harford County Colorectal Cancer Screening Program

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Harford County Resident
- Be age 50 or more
- Physician referral required for those less than 50 years old
- Uninsured or underinsured
- Limited income

The Harford County Colorectal Cancer Screening Program provides a screening colonoscopy at no cost to those who are eligible. These screenings are dependent on availability of funds.

**YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR SCREENING AT NO COST TO YOU**

**For more information about this program or to schedule a public awareness presentation, contact the Harford County Health Department's Office of Cancer Prevention Services at 410-612-1780**

## Harford County Colorectal Cancer Screening Program 410-612-1780

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The Department, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, ensures that qualified individuals with disabilities participate in and benefit from the department services, programs, benefits, and employment opportunities.

*The program is funded by the Maryland Cigarette Restitution Fund Program.*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Harford County  
Health Department**

## Colorectal Cancer Screening Program



**Early colorectal cancer screening could save their lives and yours.**

Office of Cancer Prevention Services  
Harford County Health Department  
1321 Woodbridge Station Way  
Suite A  
Edgewood, Maryland 21040

410-612-1780  
www.harfordcountyhealth.com

## COLORECTAL CANCER

*Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the United States and Maryland. Each year, approximately 3,000 Marylanders including 100 Harford County residents are diagnosed with colorectal cancer.*

**If found early, colorectal cancer is treatable.**

### *What is colorectal cancer?*

Colorectal cancer most often begins as a benign polyp. These polyps can be located in the colon (large intestine) or the rectum (the last 8-10 inches of the large intestine.)

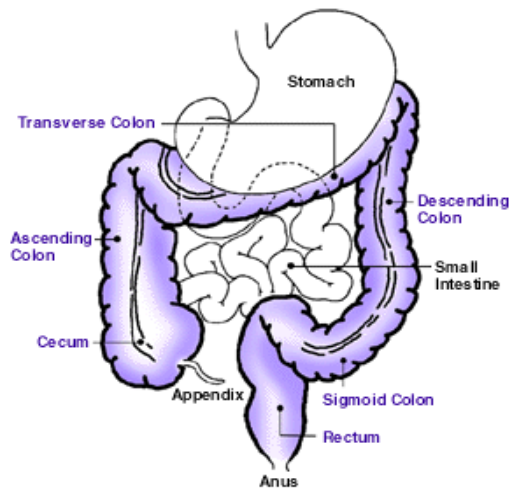


Diagram of the Colon and Rectum

## COMMON QUESTIONS

### *What are the symptoms?*

- Bleeding from rectum or blood in stool
- Abdominal cramps or pain
- Change in bowel habit including stools that are narrower than usual

These symptoms can also be caused by something less serious such as an ulcer or hemorrhoid. Check with your doctor if you are experiencing these symptoms for the first time.

**In the early stages, persons with colorectal cancer often do not have symptoms.**

### *What are the risk factors?*

**Age:** There is an increased risk of colorectal cancer at age 50 and above.

**Family History:** People with a family history of colorectal cancer or polyps (small growths on the lining of the colon) have an increased risk of developing colorectal cancer. Polyps can become cancerous if left untreated.

**Personal History:** People with a personal history of inflammatory bowel disease (ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease), adenomatous polyps, or cancer of the ovary or endometrium are at an increased risk for colorectal cancer.

## DETECTION

### *How can I be tested?*

The following screening procedures are available to detect colorectal cancer:

- **Fecal occult blood test (FOBT):** At home procedure that checks stool samples for hidden blood which can be a sign of cancer, polyps, or other internal disorders.
- **Sigmoidoscopy:** Procedure using a flexible, hollow, lighted tube that detects cancer or polyps inside the rectum and lower colon. A sigmoidoscope can view the last one third of the colon.
- **Colonoscopy:** This procedure is similar to a sigmoidoscopy, except the colonoscope is able to view the entire colon, collect cells for study or remove polyps.

**Screening tests can help prevent colorectal cancer.**

*If you qualify for the Harford County Colorectal Cancer Screening Program, the local health department staff will set up your screening appointments.*