



FAST FACTS

Colorectal Cancer Screening Saves Lives

SCREENING SAVES LIVES

- Of cancers affecting both men and women, colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the United States.
- The risk increases with age. Colorectal cancer occurs most often in people aged 50 years or older.
- Regular screening for colorectal cancer is recommended for all adults aged 50 to 75. If you are between ages 76 to 85, ask your doctor if you should be screened.
- This disease is highly preventable, through screening. Screening tests can find precancerous polyps so they can be removed **before** they turn into cancer. Screening also finds colorectal cancer early, when treatment works best.
- Colorectal polyps and early stage cancers don't always cause symptoms, especially at first. That is why getting screened regularly for colorectal cancer is so important.
- You may be at increased risk for colorectal cancer if:
 - you or a close relative have had colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer;
 - you have inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, or ulcerative colitis; or
 - you have a genetic syndrome, such as familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP), or hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer (Lynch syndrome).

If any of these things is true for you, speak with your doctor about when to start screening and how often you should be tested.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/screenforlife
1-800-CDC-INFO