

## Colorectal Cancer Screening Saves Lives

- Of cancers affecting both men and women, colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the United States.
- Risk increases with age. More than 90% of colorectal cancers occur in people aged 50 years and older.
- Screening is recommended for men and women aged 50 to 75. After 75, ask your doctor if you should be screened.
- This disease is highly preventable, through screening. Screening helps find precancerous polyps so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.
- Screening also can find colorectal cancer early, when treatment works best. Approximately 90% of those diagnosed with early stage cancer live 5 or more years.
- 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, ask your doctor if you need to start screening before age 50 and how often you should be tested.

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For more information, please call **1-800-CDC-INFO**  
(1-800-232-4636) or visit [www.cdc.gov/screenforlife](http://www.cdc.gov/screenforlife)

