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**Clinton County Health Department
Press Release
"Breast Cancer Awareness"
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October will again see the country observing Breast Cancer Awareness Month. During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, many local organizations and agencies provide breast cancer screening opportunities, education, information and support to local residents. The Clinton County Department of Health, in collaboration with CVPH Medical Center operates the Healthy Living Partnership which provides mammograms to eligible women.

"This is an excellent time for women to learn about their risk and get screened for breast cancer. All women 40 and over should get an annual mammogram and clinical breast exam. Women 20 to 39 should get a clinical breast exam at least once every three years," said Lisa Marlow, Senior Public Health Educator of the Clinton County Health Department Healthy Living Partnership.

"A mammogram along with a clinical breast exam is an effective tool to detect breast cancer in its early stage and has been successful in reducing overall cancer and mortality," she said. The Clinton County Health Department Healthy Living Partnership provides FREE cancer screenings/services for anyone that is uninsured or underinsured. The Healthy Living Partnership screened 500 individuals last year. The screenings/services provided through local doctors offices include; Mammograms, Clinical Breast Exams, Pap Tests, Colorectal Cancer Screenings, and the HPV vaccinations. Call us today for more information at 562-7112.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death among women in New York State. Each year, nearly 14,000 New York women are diagnosed with breast cancer and about 3,000 die from the disease. In the most recent reports, 51.4 cases of breast cancer were diagnosed annually in Clinton County alone.

Women are at increased risk for breast cancer if they have had their first pregnancy over the age of 30, began their period at a very young age, have a first degree relative (maternal or paternal side of the family) diagnosed with

breast cancer, have a genetic predisposition, such as BRCA1 or BRCA2, or have been previously diagnosed with cancer.

“We encourage women to be vigilant, to learn about personal risk and get screened for breast cancer,” said Lisa Marlow. “When caught early, the chance of survival is high. Talk with your health care provider to schedule your mammogram and clinical breast exam.”

Early detection of breast cancer through mammography and clinical breast examination has led to a significant increase in the numbers of individuals who survive this disease, both in the state and nation. The sooner breast cancer is detected, the better the chances of survival. Improved treatment options have also led to increased survival among those diagnosed with breast cancer.

There are many programs that offer support to women with breast cancer and their families, offering a wide variety of services, such as counseling, education, outreach, and support. For more information on breast cancer, call the Clinton County Health Department’s Healthy Living Partnership at 562-7112.

Endorsed by: _____
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