



News from the Office of
ERIE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARK POLONCARZ

NEWS RELEASE

Health Commissioner Dr. Gale Burstein

October 11, 2012

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October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Early Detection Saves Lives, Finds Cancers Before Symptoms Appear

ERIE COUNTY, NY— The Erie County Department of Health (“ECDOH”) supports National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (“NBCAM”), a program dedicated to increasing awareness of the importance of early detection of breast cancer through a nationwide campaign held in October. “Mammograms are the best method to detect breast cancer early when it is easier to treat and before it is big enough to feel or cause symptoms. Having regular mammograms can lower the risk of dying from breast cancer,” **said Erie County Health Commissioner Dr. Gale Burstein.** “If you are age 50 to 74 years, be sure to have a screening mammogram every year. We have the ability to provide mammography screening for uninsured or underinsured residents, and I urge women to contact us as soon as possible to schedule a free mammogram.”

Through its Cancer Services Program, ECDOH provides cancer screening, diagnostic, treatment, and support services for uninsured and underinsured individuals aged 40 and over for breast, cervical and colo-rectal cancer. The ECDOH Cancer Services Program can determine eligibility for services, assist with scheduling screening examinations, and provide information at no cost. Individuals can contact the Cancer Screening Program at (716) 886-9201, or utilize the Cancer Services Program website, www.cspwny.org.

The goal of screening exams for early breast, cervical, and colo-rectal cancer detection is to identify cancers before they present symptoms and begin treatment as soon as possible. Early detection saves thousands of lives each year, with the possibility of even more lives being saved if more residents, both women and men, take advantage of available cancer screenings.

Additionally, in celebration of October as Breast Health Awareness Month, Windsong Radiology Group in Williamsville, Amherst OB/GYN Associates, Cancer Services Program of Erie County, and WNY Chapter of the Women's Bar Association are combining resources to offer free clinical breast exams and free mammograms for women over 40 without health insurance or are underinsured

on Saturday, October 13th from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM to screen for breast cancer. To schedule an appointment, call 886-9201.

For more information on:

The Erie County Department of Health, visit: <http://www2.erie.gov/health/>

The National Breast Cancer Foundation Inc., visit:

<http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-awareness-month>

The American Cancer Society, visit:

<http://www.cancer.org/>

The National Cancer Institute, visit:

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/breast>

The NYS Department of Health, visit:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/abouts/breast.htm>

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation, visit:

<http://ww5.komen.org/>