



-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

**March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month:
Screening is Key to Prevention**



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---SALEM, OH (March 29, 2022) ---Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer death in the United States, but is highly treatable and often preventable with early detection.

“It’s estimated that sixty percent of colorectal cancer deaths could be prevented with regular screening,” said William Lee, M.D., FACS, a board certified general surgeon affiliated with Salem General Surgery and Salem Regional Medical Center’s (SRMC) medical staff. “Most colorectal cancers start as benign polyps, or growths on the lining of the colon. Polyps often produce no symptoms, but may become cancerous over time.”

“Screening can help detect cancer at this early stage. When detected in the earliest stage of the disease, the survival rate is greater than ninety percent.”

Dr. Lee recommends adults begin colorectal cancer screening at age 45, and then continue being screened at regular intervals. Individuals with a family history of colon cancer or personal history of other cancers or colorectal diseases are at increased risk.

“If you are at an increased risk for colorectal cancer, your doctor may endorse being screened earlier,” he added.

Recommended screenings could include stool tests, colonoscopies, and virtual CT colonoscopies. Both a traditional colonoscopy and virtual colonoscopy can find precancerous polyps, before they turn into cancer. Dr. Lee advises patients talk to their health care providers about which screening options are right for them.

Colorectal cancer screenings, including traditional and virtual CT colonoscopies can be performed at SRMC with a physician’s order. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Lee, contact 330-337-2868.