

TO MEDIA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDEPENDENCE HEALTH SYSTEM OFFERING FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

CLARION, PA, September 15, 2023... The Clarion Cancer Center, part of Independence Health System, is hosting free health screenings at the Health and Wellness Center this fall.

A free Lung Cancer Screening is currently available until Nov. 14 at the Family Medicine Residency, 330 North Point Drive, Clarion. Appointments are required. No walk-ins will be accepted. To schedule a screening, call 833-684-1889. To qualify, individuals must be between the ages of 50-77, currently smoke or have quit smoking within the past 15 years, and have a 20 pack-year history of smoking (a pack/day for 20 years or 2 packs/day for 10 years).

According to the American Cancer Society, lung cancer is the second most common cancer and the leading cause of death from cancer. If found early, treatment options are more likely to be successful, lowering your risk of dying from lung cancer. Upon completion of your free screening visit, a clinician will order a low-dose CT scan for qualifying participants. A low-dose CT scan is non-invasive test that can help detect cancerous spots in the lungs.

In addition, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. A free Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Event is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 14, from 8 a.m. to noon at 330 North Point Drive, Clarion. To schedule an appointment, call 814-226-1970. Walk-ins will be accepted, but scheduling is encouraged.

Mammograms are recommended for women 40 years of age and older. Women

under 40, considered high risk, may also qualify and can call 814-226-1970 to discuss. Free pelvic and Pap exams are available for women ages 21 and older.

Each screening event is sponsored by the Highmark Foundation. To learn more about healthcare services at Independence Health System, visit www.independence.health.

Nationally recognized for quality care, Independence Health System comprises Butler Memorial, Clarion, Frick, Latrobe and Westmoreland Hospitals with a combined bed count of 925. With more than 1,000 physicians and advanced practice providers and 7,300 employees, the System is now the third largest in western Pennsylvania serving a population base of 750,000 in a footprint spanning more than 10 counties.

The System includes tertiary programs that are rated among America's best for cardiac care and surgery by Healthgrades in its Top 100 and Top 50 designations, and one of only five in Pennsylvania to achieve a five-star rating in cardiac surgery. In similar fashion, the prestigious Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) bestowed its top three-star rating. Historically, less than 10 percent of programs within the STS data base achieve this elite standing. The hospitals of Independence Health System also have earned a host of accolades from such prestigious outlets and sources as US News and World Report, Newsweek Magazine, the American College of Radiology, the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Surgeons, the Joint Commission, Leapfrog and the American Heart/Stroke Association.

Locally owned and locally controlled, Independence Health System offers its patients low-cost, high-quality care across the care spectrum in such specialties as cardiology, cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, orthopedics and sports medicine, minimally invasive and robotic surgery, women's health and obstetrics, emergency medicine, behavioral health and primary care. Its network of outpatient centers sees more than 1.2 million visits annually. The homecare division further supports patients at all stages of life with home health and hospice services.

Independence Health System continues to change the healthcare landscape in western Pennsylvania by meeting patient needs through superb physician expertise, outstanding nursing, the latest in technology and programmatic depth.