



FOR RELEASE:
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Health Department wants to reach “EVERY woman, EVERY year”

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but breast cancer kills women every day of the year. And every day, thousands of women – whether or not they’re employed – must make a choice between paying the bills or taking care of their own health. The Health Department of Northwest Michigan wants to remove all obstacles women face in seeking the care that might help them detect and prevent breast cancer.

Joy Klooster, who coordinates several women’s health programs for the Health Department, noted that breast cancer affects every member of the family, and everyone can help save the lives of the women they love. “We encourage husbands, boyfriends, kids, parents, bosses and best friends to help make it a priority for EVERY woman in their lives, EVERY year.”

Klooster said the Health Department’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) targets women age 40-64 who have no insurance, or who have high insurance deductibles for diagnostic procedures like ultrasounds and breast tissue biopsies. “We also have ways to help women ages 25 to 39 who have abnormal breast findings and need mammograms,” she explained. “We provide follow-up for abnormal findings, and if a cancer is found, we can help them through the Medicaid Treatment Act.”

Every woman who is 40 or older should seek a mammogram, every year. If you find a lump and don’t know where to turn, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan will guide you to the right screening program. To learn more about the Health Department's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, visit www.nwhealth.org.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego Counties. Call **(800) 432-4121** for more information or to schedule a mammogram.

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