Not insured?

If you don't have insurance, you may still be able to get screened. The New York State Cancer Services Program offers free colon cancer screening for eligible, uninsured New York residents in every county and borough.

Contact your local Cancer Services Program or call
1-866-442-CANCER (2262)
to find a program near you.

You should also consider enrolling in a health plan through the New York State of Health. For more information call the help line at **855.355.5777** or visit: **nystateofhealth.ny.gov**

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Health

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Get Tested for Colon Cancer

There is more than one test for colon cancer screening.

Talk to your health care provider.

Whatever test you choose, getting screened is the right choice.

All men and women 50 years and older should be tested for colon cancer.

NEW YORK STATE | Cancer Services Program

A program of the Department of Health

Types of Colon Cancer Screening Tests

Did You Know...

Colon cancer is the #2 cause of cancer deaths, but it doesn't have to be.

Screening tests can find colon cancer early, when treatment works best.

Tests can find growths (polyps) so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.

Colon cancer or polyps may not cause symptoms, especially early on. Don't wait for symptoms before you get tested.

More than half of deaths from colon cancer could be prevented with regular testing.

At-Home Stool Tests

- There are 2 types of at-home tests: **Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) or Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT)**
- You do these tests at home and send stool samples to a doctor's office or lab.
- These tests show if there is blood in your stool.
- If blood is found, you will need to have a **colonoscopy** to find the cause of the bleeding.
- These tests are safe and easy to complete. No time off from work is needed.
- You do these tests once a year.

Colonoscopy

- A colonoscopy is done in a doctor's office or other medical place.
- The doctor looks for growths (polyps) or cancer in the rectum and colon.
- Any polyps found during the test can be removed. This may help prevent cancer.
- You will be given medicine to make you more comfortable or put you to sleep during the test.
- If the results of your test are normal, a colonoscopy can be done once every 10 years. Otherwise, your doctor will tell you when you should have the next test.

Flexible Sigmoidoscopy

- A flexible sigmoidoscopy is done in a doctor's office or other medical place.
- The doctor checks for growths (polyps) or cancer inside the rectum and lower third of the colon.
- This test is done every five years. If this test is done along with an FOBT, the FOBT should be done every three years.

Talk to your health care provider and choose the test that's right for YOU.