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JFK Medical Center Offers Free Colorectal Screening Tests

Edison, NJ— JFK Medical Center will be offering free colorectal screening kits to the community during the month of March. This screening is part of a nationwide campaign to raise awareness about the risks of colorectal cancer.

Additionally, JFK's very own Colorectal Surgeon, Kirsten Bass Wilkins, M.D., will be presenting a seminar about the prevention and treatment of colon/rectal cancer. The seminar will take place on Tuesday, March 17, at 6:00 pm at the JFK Medical Center Conference Center Classrooms at 70 James Street in Edison. To reserve a seat please call (732) 632-1528. Free kits will also be available at this lecture.

Colorectal cancer affects over 150,000 Americans each year. Almost one third of those diagnosed with colorectal cancer, die from the disease. Although screening for colorectal cancer could save thousands of lives, these testing procedures are not used nearly as much as they should be.

The JFK Medical Center free 2009 colorectal screening campaign encourages community members to pick up one of the free at-home screening kits and take the test. The kit consists of a fecal occult blood test, test instructions, and educational information about colorectal cancer. The fecal occult blood test is a simple at-home procedure that checks stool samples for hidden blood, which can be a sign of cancer, polyps, or other internal disorders. Participants are asked to carefully follow the instructions included in the testing kit and send their sample in the proper envelopes provided to the lab to ensure timely analysis. People who are especially at risk for colorectal cancer are men and women over the age of fifty, and those who have a personal or family history of colorectal cancer, polyps in the colon or rectum, or inflammatory bowel disease.

Community residents are encouraged to pick up a colorectal screening test kit at any of the participating locations throughout the area from March 1-31. Tests will be available at the locations below, or call 732-632-1528 to request a kit or for more information.

Tests will be available for pick-up at these locations:

JFK Medical Center Front Lobby Info Desk
JFK Family Medicine Center
JFK Health & Fitness Center at 70 James Street
JFK Medical Center – Muhlenberg Campus Front Lobby Info Desk
South Plainfield Health Department
Piscataway Health Department
Dunellen Boro Hall
Dunellen Public Library
Landmark Pharmacy, North Plainfield
Plainfield Health Center (Neighborhood Health)

Woodbridge Township Department of Health
Avenel Pharmacy
AR-EX Pharmacy, Fords
CVS Pharmacy, Woodbridge
Iselin Pharmacy
The Medicine Shoppe, Woodbridge
Rapp's Pharmacy, Plainfield
North Plainfield Health Department
Walgreens, Green Street, Woodbridge
Walgreens, Inman Avenue, Colonia
Colonia Natural Pharmacy
Westfield Regional Health Department
Edison Division of Health and Human Resources, Municipal Building
Metuchen Health Department
Rite-Aid, North Plainfield
Metuchen/Edison YMCA
Jewish Family and Vocational Services of Middlesex County, Edison
Jewish Community Center, Edison
Twin City Pharmacy, South Plainfield
Towne Pharmacy, Dunellen

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JFK Medical Center, an affiliate of Solaris Health System, is a 535-bed full-service, acute care hospital, consisting of The Anthony M. Yelensics Community Hospital and the adjacent JFK Johnson Rehabilitative Institute. Located in the heart of Edison, NJ, it has remained at the forefront of quality care in the region since its inception in 1967. Today, JFK accommodates more than 20,000 admissions, 3,000 births and 50,000 Emergency Room visits on a yearly basis. The Medical Center features a complete array of services, including general surgery, emergency medicine, mental health, orthopedics, maternity and pediatric care. It is home to the New Jersey Neuroscience Institute, Regional Cancer Center, Haven Hospice, JFK Imaging Center and the JFK Family Practice Center. Affiliated with UMDNJ -Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Seton Hall University School of Graduate Medical Education, JFK offers residency programs in physical and rehabilitation medicine, family practice and dentistry.