

Ten Basic Facts about Colorectal Cancer

- Colorectal cancer includes cancers of the colon (large bowel) and rectum.
- It is one of the most detectable – and, if found early enough –most treatable forms of cancer.
- In 2004, an estimated 800 Mainers were diagnosed with colorectal cancer.
- There is strong evidence that physical activity is associated with a lower risk of colorectal cancer.
- It is most often found in people 50 years of age and over.
- It usually starts from polyps that over time change into cancer.
- Screening tests can find polyps, so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.
- Polyps and colorectal cancer don't always cause symptoms.
- Colorectal cancer is 90% treatable when detected early.
- Screening saves lives.

For more information visit

www.cancer.gov

www.mainepublichealth.gov and type in “colorectal cancer” in the search box
or call

1-877-320-6800 for the Colon Screening Hotline