



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24rd, 2018

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Free cancer screenings now available to more Weld County women

Weld County, Colorado - The Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment (WCDPHE) began offering free cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to women aged 21 through 64 in January 2017 through the Women's Wellness Connection, a program of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

"Many forms of cancer are preventable if women get screened early," said Dr. Mark E. Wallace, MD, MPH, Executive Director of the Weld County Department of Public Health. "This expansion of services by the Women's Wellness Connection will help young women who can least afford screening stay cancer-free."

Eligibility for these services previously began at age 40. The Women's Wellness Connection is expanding eligibility to include younger women who may not have the income or insurance coverage to pay for these important screening services. To qualify for these free services, women must earn less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level (for example, less than \$61,500 a year for a family of 4), be in the United States legally, and have no health insurance or have health insurance with high deductibles or co-pays.

Women are eligible for many diagnostic procedures. If a woman enrolled in the Women's Wellness Connection is diagnosed with cancer, most will qualify for treatment through Health First Colorado's Breast and Cervical Cancer Program.

The WCDPHE also offers free breast cancer screening for women ages 40 to 64 who meet the same eligibility requirements. Women can check eligibility and clinic locations at the [Women's Wellness Connection](#).

Every year in the United States, approximately 12,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and about 4,000 women die of the disease. Latinas and African-American women are at higher risk for developing and dying from cervical cancer. It is important to recognize during Cervical Health Awareness Month that screening saves lives.

For more information about the Women's Wellness Connection, visit weldhealth.org or contact Adriana Ramirez, Community Health Outreach Worker, at (970) 400-2400 or aramirez@weldgov.com.

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