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**United Hospital District and Blue Earth Chamber of Commerce To Host
Wellness Reception In Support of Colon Cancer Awareness**
Free Event at Giant Welcome Center Scheduled for March 9

Blue Earth, MN – March 1, 2021 – United Hospital District (UHD) and Blue Earth Chamber of Commerce are partnering together to promote colon cancer awareness throughout the month of March, which is recognized nationally as Colon Cancer Awareness Month. On Tuesday, March 9, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the public is invited to a free Wellness Reception at the Giant Welcome Center and Museum in Blue Earth, located on Giant Drive. Refreshments and colon cancer information will be available. Social distancing guidelines will be in effect.

The co-sponsored event aligns with the Colon Cancer Coalition’s nationwide #BlueForCRC initiative to spread the message about importance of screening for colorectal cancer. Blue is the awareness color for colon cancer. During the week of March 8-12, 2021, many hospitals, municipal buildings and landmarks throughout state will be lit blue, in support of the #BlueforCRC campaign.

UHD will further the effort by encouraging staff to wear blue on March 9th and by sharing important health information on their Facebook page throughout the month. The goal is to educate county residents about the importance of colorectal cancer and show support for patients, survivors, and caregivers in the community.

Colorectal cancer is the nation’s second leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. It is one of the few cancers that can be prevented through screening. Tragically, colonoscopies declined nearly 90% in April 2020 from the previous year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The general public is also invited to join the awareness effort by sharing photos on Twitter or Instagram using the hashtags #BlueForCRC and #MNCRC.

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