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### **For Immediate Release**

## **March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month**

**March 7, 2011**

LICKING COUNTY, OHIO –Colorectal cancer screenings save lives. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has indicated up to 60% of deaths attributed to colorectal cancers could be avoided if Americans ages 50 and above received regular screenings. In order to encourage these individuals to get properly screened, March is recognized as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

“I encourage all Licking County residents 50 years old or older to talk with their healthcare provider about scheduling a colorectal cancer screening.” said Joe Ebel, Licking County Health Commissioner. “Doing so may prove to be a lifesaving decision.”

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States, and is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in the United States. Studies have shown increased physical activity and maintaining a healthy weight may decrease the risk of colorectal cancer, but proven ways to prevent colorectal cancer are not currently available. Since a proven manner of preventing colorectal cancer has not been found, proper screening is vital to reduce the number of deaths caused by this type of cancer.

For more information regarding colorectal cancer please visit [www.lickingcohealth.org](http://www.lickingcohealth.org) or [www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/).

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