



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
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AUGUSTA, MAINE  
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October 10, 2023

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the citizens of Maine, I write this letter to raise awareness of Lung Cancer Awareness Month, which is recognized annually during the month of November.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among men and women in Maine and the country. In Maine, the lung cancer incidence and mortality rates are significantly higher than the national average.

Cigarette smoking is the number one cause of lung cancer, accounting for 80-90 percent of lung cancer deaths. Radon exposure is the second leading cause, and the U.S. EPA estimates that radon causes about 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year, with 10 percent of those occurring among people who have never smoked cigarettes.

Screening for lung cancer in high-risk individuals using low-dose computed tomography, or low-dose CT scan, can lead to the earlier detection of lung cancer and save lives. Mainers who are at a high risk should speak with their health care professional to learn if screening for lung cancer is right for them.

As Governor, I thank the many organizations, health care professionals and patients who are working to raise money for lung cancer research, reduce stigma around the disease, increase awareness and save lives.

Thank you,

Janet T. Mills  
Governor



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