

Pomperaug District Department of Health
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For immediate release

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POMPERAUG HEALTH DISTRICT SPONSORS SKIN CANCER SCREENING

The Pomperaug District Department of Health will sponsor a **Skin Cancer Screening** on Wednesday, **June 9th, from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** at the Health District office, which is located at 800 Main Street South, Suite 124 in Southbury. This program is free. This skin cancer screening is meant for people who are currently not under the care of a dermatologist. Appointments are necessary and can be made by calling the Pomperaug Health District at 264-9616, then press 0.

The screening, which usually takes about 15-20 minutes, consists of a full body exam, where participants are checked for specific lesions, such as skin cancer, pre-cancerous moles, or abnormal lesions. Board Certified Dermatologists will conduct the screening evaluation. Doctor Jeffrey N. Alter of Southbury and Doctor Graeme Lipper of Danbury are donating their services for this effort. If a suspicious lesion is found, participants are given a written report to direct to his or her physician for follow-up. The doctors will not be checking for other dermatological problems, such as acne or rashes, during the screening.

The purpose of the screening is to identify new cases of skin cancer while they are still in the early stage and easier to treat. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. One out of five Americans will get skin cancer in their lifetime. This year, there will be more than 1 million cases of skin cancer diagnosed. Melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer, causes the most skin cancer deaths.

There are certain people who may be at higher risk for contracting skin cancer: people with fair skin, blue eyes, or red or blond hair; people with a family history of melanoma; people who have had a blistering sunburn as a child or who have a history of sunburns early in life; and persons who spend a lot of time outdoors.

Early detection is important. The early warning signs of skin cancer are changes in freckles, skin discoloration, or changes in the size, color and shape of moles. People should examine their skin on a regular basis for any of these signs, especially if they are in the high-risk group. Skin cancer screening is viewed as an excellent example of preventive medicine.

To make an appointment or for any questions, please call the Pomperaug District Department of Health at 264-9616, then press 0.