



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Local Dermatologists Offer Free Skin Cancer Screening

--Goal of Annual Event is to Screen up to 500 People --

Boise – Just in time for the summer season, Treasure Valley dermatologists are teaming up to offer a free skin cancer screening clinic for community members.

The clinic will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, May 16 at St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute, 100 E. Idaho St. in Boise.

Space is limited and advance registration is required. To reserve a spot call 381-9000. Online sign up is also available by visiting www.stlukesonline.org and clicking on classes and events.

Participants will be given a visual screening and a copy of a report identifying any areas of concern. Following the screening, a list of local dermatologists will be provided, but it will be the participant's responsibility to seek out any follow-up care.

"Skin cancer is the most common of all cancers in the United States," said Dr. James Stewart, a dermatologist with the Dermatology Clinic of Idaho. "Each year more than 1 million people are diagnosed with some form of skin cancer, so it's critical that people be screened regularly and take the required precautions to protect skin from excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun or other sources such as tanning beds."

One in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime, according to the Skin Cancer Foundation.

Melanoma is the most deadly form of skin cancer. Melanoma accounts for about three percent of skin cancer cases, but it causes more than 75 percent of skin cancer deaths.

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“The rate of diagnosis for the most common types of cancers are falling, but unfortunately the incidence of melanoma continues to rise significantly at a rate much faster than the seven most common cancers,” Dr. Stewart said. “The good news is that if detected early, the survival rate for skin cancer is very good.”

If melanoma is detected early – before the tumor has penetrated the epidermis – the survival rate is about 99 percent, but it falls to 15 percent if the disease advances before it’s detected.

Studies have shown that protection from the sun’s ultraviolet rays is the best way to prevent skin cancer, but the National Cancer Institute reports that 70 percent of Americans do not use effective sun-protection measures.

To find out more information about skin cancer and tips on how to protect your skin from ultraviolet rays visit www.skincancer.org.

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