FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13th, 2023

**Forest County Health Department Updates:**

**October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month:** October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and to raise awareness, the Forest County Health Department encourages annual well woman visits and breast cancer screening with mammograms. The benefit of having regular mammograms is finding breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat. Women age 40 and older should discuss when to begin breast cancer screening and how often to have a mammogram with their health care provider.

Women aged 40 years or older qualify for the Wisconsin Well Woman Program (WWWP). WWWP offers support to women whose incomes are 250% below the federal poverty level, and do not have adequate health insurance coverage. The service provides access to mammograms for breast cancer screening and Pap tests for cervical cancer screenings at no cost to the client.

If you are 40 years and older with a high deductible or no health insurance, and meet the income guidelines, you may qualify for the program. Income guidelines are updated annually.

**Current income guidelines:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Family Size**  | **Household Income**  |
| 1  | Up to $36,450  |
| 2  | Up to $49,300  |
| 3  | Up to $62,150  |
| 4  | Up to $75,000  |
| 5+  | Add $12,850 for each additional family member  |

**Oneida County Health Department assists women in multiple counties to access WWWP benefits including;** Ashland, Bayfield, Florence, **Forest**, Iron, Oneida, Price, Sawyer and Vilas counties. It is anticipated that this change could make hundreds of women eligible for these life-saving services. Local healthcare providers and public health agencies also have information on how to refer women to the Wisconsin Well Woman Program.

For more information go to <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wwwp>or contact the Oneida County Health Department at 715-369-6119.

**WIC and Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program Vouchers:** Friendly reminder for recipients to use all your vouchers by October 31st – the last day of the Farmers’ Market Programs for 2023.

We will update our Facebook page and local newspapers monthly as capacity allows. **Please call 715-478-3371 with any questions or concerns.**