

New York State



Cancer Consortium



# NYSCC NEWSLETTER

The NYS Cancer Consortium is committed to its mission to reduce the human and economic burden of cancer in New York State. It is also committed to its vision that all people concerned about cancer will work collaboratively to implement the Cancer Plan while respecting the diversity within New York.

Stay up to date with issues that may impact cancer control by connecting with key partners such as:

- [American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network](#)
- [Susan G. Komen Center for Public Policy](#)

*The Consortium recognizes the following opportunities for advocacy and recognition during January and February.*

**January:** Thyroid Awareness Month, National Blood Donor Month

**February:** World Cancer Day 2/4, National Cancer Prevention Month, International Childhood Cancer Day 2/15

## RAISING AWARENESS

### Radon Awareness



Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer for people who have never smoked. For people who do smoke, radon increases lung cancer risk by 10 to 20 times. Recent research suggests radon also may contribute to development of other kinds of cancer.

Radon is an odorless, colorless gas produced when uranium in bedrock decays. As radon gas rises to the surface, it escapes through the soil and can get into homes through cracks in their foundations. Radon can get trapped in homes with insufficient ventilation, allowing dangerous amounts to build up.

Because radon is invisible and odorless, a radon test is the only way to know if a house is safe. Fortunately, testing is easy and affordable. To learn more about radon testing, check out this [infographic](#). The [New York State Department of Health](#) website has information on radon risks in different parts of the state, how to order a test kit, and what to do if high levels of radon are found.

### Cervical Cancer Awareness



January was Cervical Cancer Awareness Month (CCAM), a time to highlight the importance of prevention, early detection, treatment, and survivorship. Routine screening and HPV vaccination can prevent most cervical cancers and save lives, while advances in treatment continue to improve outcomes and quality of life for survivors. Screening options for cervical cancer include primary HPV testing, including self-collection through FDA-approved tests; Pap tests; and co-testing. Screening is recommended every 3 or 5 years, depending on the method. The HPV vaccine can be given starting at age 9 and protects against 6 different types of cancers, including cervical cancer.



The American Cancer Society (ACS) has updated its [cervical cancer screening guidelines](#) to reflect advances in detection and accessibility, including expanded self-collection options. These updates are designed to improve screening participation and further reduce the risk of cervical cancer. Key changes include the introduction of HPV self-collection as a screening option and updated guidance on when individuals can safely discontinue cervical cancer screening.

## Health Equity and Cancer Miniseries – Palliative Care



Please join us at the next session of the [Health Equity and Cancer Miniseries](#) titled Palliative Care, **on February 26, 2026**. Participants will gain the knowledge, tools, and insights necessary to support community members in accessing Palliative Care throughout the cancer care continuum.

If you missed any sessions, please visit the [Quarterly Member Meeting Series](#) to view all past session recordings and slide decks.

## Social Media – Let’s Engage and Educate the Public about Cancer Prevention and Control



Please join the NYS Cancer Consortium in its efforts to reach the public with its evidence-based messaging via [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), by following our handle, [@nyscancerconsortium](#). We’ll be sharing updates, including highlights for cancer awareness months and NYSCC Action Team projects, along with other exciting initiatives.

Join us in spreading the word and making a difference!

## Meetings and Training Opportunities



Please visit the ["Meetings and Trainings of Interest" page](#) on the [Consortium website](#). This regularly updated resource highlights a variety of meetings, training sessions, webinars, and events organized by our partners. If you would like to promote your event, please reach out to the Consortium via [email](#).

## Consortium Quarterly Member Meetings



Health Equity and Cancer Mini-Series: *Palliative Care*

This session will be a panel discussion with the opportunity for the audience to present questions during the Q&A portion. Participants will have the knowledge, tools, and insights necessary to support community members in accessing Palliative Care throughout the cancer care continuum.

### Panelists:

1. **Kara Travis**, BA, BS, MA: Director, Center for Hospice & Palliative Care, Office of Aging & Long-Term Care
2. **Sarah Hardy** NP: Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital
3. **Dr. Laura Cunnington**: Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital

## WHATS GOING ON IN NEW YORK STATE

### [Governor Hochul Signs Legislation Eliminating Cost Barriers to Lung Cancer Screening](#)



On December 4, 2025 Governor Hochul signed legislation requiring health insurance policies to provide coverage for follow-up screening or diagnostic services for lung cancer and prevents insurance policies from imposing cost-sharing for those services. The [new legislation](#) goes into effect in January 2027 and will require health insurance policies in New York to provide coverage for follow-up lung cancer screening and diagnostic testing to patients without cost-sharing.

[Governor Hochul Signs Legislation Making Life-Saving Medical Care More Affordable and Accessible for New Yorkers | Governor Kathy Hochul](#)

### [NYS Public Health Toolkit](#)



The NYS Department of Health has assembled ready-to-use social media captions and graphics on key public health topics to support your public health efforts.

[New York State Department of Health - Public Health Toolkit](#)

## DATA REPORTS AND OTHER RESOURCES

### [NYS Department of Health Vaccination Policies](#)



Despite a federal announcement revising routine childhood immunization recommendations, New York State is maintaining existing childhood vaccination policies, including school immunization requirements.

[New York State Department of Health Confirms That Childhood Vaccination Policies Remain Unchanged](#)

### [Cancers Associated with Excess Body Weight in New York State 2018-2022](#)



This [report](#) provides an overview of the latest five-year (2018-2022) incidence and disparities by demographics and geography of cancers associated with excess weight, as well as incidence trends from 2008 to 2022.

[More NYS Cancer Related Data and Reports](#)

### [Lung Cancer Screening In Adults ages 50 to 80 in New York State](#)



This [report](#) presents data on the prevalence of lung cancer screening across key demographic groups among New York State adults aged 50-80 years. This report is the first of its kind for New York State and departs from traditional cancer screening briefs in that it presents lung cancer screening eligibility.

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If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining any of these incredible teams, please visit [the Consortium's Become a Member Page!](#)

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*The mission of the Consortium is to reduce the human and economic burden of cancer in NYS. Information in this email is provided as a resource to members of the New York State Cancer Consortium on topics related to the New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. The views, opinions, and content included in this e-mail are those of the authors or event hosts and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the New York State Department of Health or the New York State Cancer Consortium.*

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