

CDC Vital Signs

Have You Been Tested for Colorectal Cancer?

[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Colorectal cancer screening saves lives, but only if people get tested. About 23 million adults have never been tested. Almost two out of three have a regular doctor and health insurance that would pay for the test. Doctors often recommend colonoscopy, but the fecal occult blood test and sigmoidoscopy also effectively find colorectal cancer early. When people can pick the test they prefer, they're more likely to actually get tested.

If you're between the ages of 50 and 75, talk with your doctor about which test is best for you. Make sure you understand the steps *you* need to take to get tested. If you have a family history of colorectal cancer or polyps, or inflammatory bowel disease, ask your doctor if you should start screening *before* age 50.

Through the Affordable Care Act, many people have access to health insurance that covers colorectal cancer screening tests at no cost.

Remember, the best test is the test that gets done.

[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.