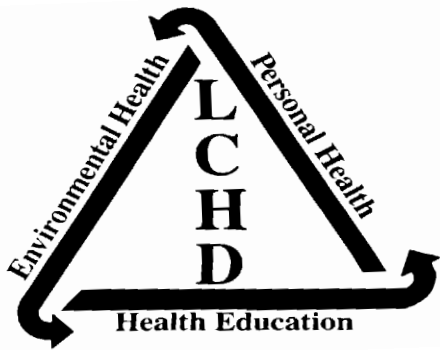


## MEDIA RELEASE



Date: October 1, 2024

To: All Media

From: LaSalle County Health Department  
717 Etna Road  
Ottawa, IL 61350

Contact: Leslie Dougherty (ex 74314) or Jenny Barrie (ex 74315)

Phone: (815) 433-3366  
**For Immediate Release**

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“October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month”

OTTAWA, IL – October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women other than skin cancer, and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for women. The good news is that most women can survive breast cancer if it is found and treated early.

A mammogram – the screening test for breast cancer – can help find breast cancer early when it is easier to treat. Low-income women and women with no insurance die from breast and cervical cancer more often than other women. These high mortality rates are attributed in part to the fact that these women generally do not receive regular mammograms and Pap smears. As a result, cancers are diagnosed at later stages when it is more difficult to treat and the chances for survival are less.

LaSalle County Health Department, through our Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) grant, can pay for mammograms and Pap smears for women who qualify. You may qualify if you are a LaSalle or Grundy County resident between the ages of 21-64 for breast and cervical cancer screenings. Through IBCCP, LaSalle County Health Department is working to increase breast and cervical cancer awareness and break that cycle of late-stage treatment. IBCCP provides FREE mammograms and Pap smears for those women who qualify and assistance with paying their deductible for those who are insured. Take advantage of this opportunity for early detection. You are important to your family.

Call (815) 433-3366 for further information on how to receive a free mammogram and Pap test.

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[www.lasallecountyil.gov](http://www.lasallecountyil.gov)



# STATE OF ILLINOIS



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, 2024 marks the 39th anniversary of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a season to educate women about breast cancer and the importance of early detection through mammography; and,*

*WHEREAS, breast cancer is one of the most common cancers diagnosed in women and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for women; and,*

*WHEREAS, in the United States, one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime and a projected 310,720 new cases will be diagnosed in women across the United States in 2024 including 11,205 women in Illinois; and,*

*WHEREAS, breast cancer incidence is lower among Black women than among White women but disparities persist in breast cancer mortality as more Black women die of breast cancer than any other racial or ethnic group; and,*

*WHEREAS, regular mammograms can help find breast cancer at an early stage when treatment is most successful; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) offers free breast exams and mammograms to uninsured and underinsured women;*

*THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 2024 as **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** and October 18, 2024, as **Mammography Day** in Illinois, and encourage all citizens to join me in the continued fight against breast cancer and health inequities.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,*

*this THIRTIETH day of SEPTEMBER, in*

*the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and*

*TWENTY-FOUR, and of the State of Illinois,*

*two hundred and FIFTH.*



*Alexi Giannouli*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*JB Pritzker*  
GOVERNOR