**Tri Valley Health System offers free colorectal screening kits during March**

CAMBRIDGE – Tri Valley Health System is teaming up with the Nebraska Cancer Coalition to try and increase the number of Nebraskans who are getting screened for colorectal cancer. During the month of March, Tri Valley Health System is offering free colorectal screening kits that will be available on the resource table in the entryway and at all three clinics. These screening kits are simple and can be done in the privacy of your own home. The screening kits are recommended for adults ages 50-75. The kit needs to be returned to one of the clinics within ten days of taking the first sample. People at an increased risk of getting colorectal cancer include having a close relative who has had colorectal polyps or colorectal polyps, have inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn’s disease or ulcerative colitis. People at an increased risk should talk to their provider about when to begin screening and which test is right for them.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the United States, and Nebraska ranks 37th in screening rates. Rural communities are most concerning because often people aren’t getting screened or they are getting screened too late to achieve a successful prognosis. Stage of disease at prognosis strongly affects the prognosis for colorectal cancer patients. The most recent national data indicates that the 5-year relative survival rates for colorectal cancer are 90% for early stage diagnoses, while rates for later stage cases fall to 71% for regional diagnoses and 14% for distant diagnoses.

For any questions about colorectal screenings please contact Tri Valley Health System at 308-697-3329.