



## **March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month**

**February 27, 2023, Traverse City, MI** – March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness month and brings to the forefront the importance of getting screened for colorectal cancer.

Colorectal cancer (cancer of the colon or rectum) affects both men and women. Every year, about 151,000 people in the United States get a colorectal cancer diagnosis and more than 52,500 people die from the disease. Colorectal cancer affects people in all racial and ethnic groups and risk increases with age.

“Colon cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S. In addition, young-onset colon cancer is actually on the rise, with 10% of all colon cancers now diagnosed under age 50. For this reason, screening guidelines have now changed to recommend starting colon cancer screening at age 45. Colonoscopy remains our best overall test for colon cancer screening due to its overall effectiveness and ability to remove precancerous growths, or polyps and prevent colon cancer from forming,” states Alexander Weick, M.D.

Alexander Weick, M.D. is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology. Dr. Weick is a physician at Digestive Health Associates and has surgical privileges at Copper Ridge Surgery Center.

If you are over 45 or are at risk, talk to your primary care physician about getting screened. Colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable with regular screening and early detection.

*Copper Ridge Surgery Center is located at 4100 Park Forest Drive, Traverse City, Michigan. For more information, please call 231.392.8900 or visit [www.surgerytc.com](http://www.surgerytc.com).*