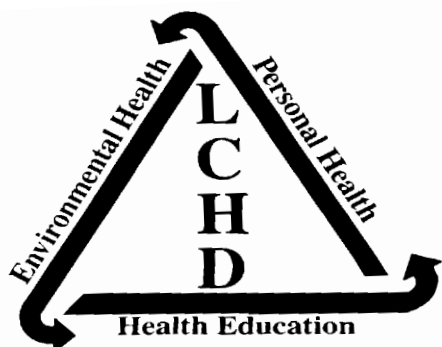


MEDIA RELEASE



Date: September 4, 2025
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
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Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314) or Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
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For Immediate Release

"September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month"

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department would like announce that September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in Illinois. Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths in women in the United States and causes more deaths than any other gynecological cancer. In the United States, a woman's lifetime risk of being diagnosed with ovarian cancer is about one in 78. The American Cancer Society estimates 20,890 cases of Ovarian cancer will be newly diagnosed in 2025 and 12,730 individuals will die from the disease nationwide, including 770 new cases and 410 deaths in Illinois.

Ovarian cancer is difficult to diagnose and is often called a "silent disease" because early symptoms can be vague and easily overlooked. Common signs include:

- Bloating or a feeling of fullness
- Abdominal or pelvic pain or pressure
- Frequent or urgent urination
- Persistent, unusual fatigue
- Persistent gastrointestinal issues (gas, nausea, indigestion)
- Unexplained weight gain or loss

Risk factors or factors that can increase the risk of developing ovarian cancer include:

- Increasing age
- Inherited gene mutations, such as BRCA1 and BRCA2
- A history of breast or bowel cancer
- Endometriosis
- Never having been pregnant
- Starting menstruation at a young age or going through menopause at an older age

Knowing your family history and telling your doctor about any unusual symptoms you may be experiencing is the best way to detect ovarian cancer early. For more information about ovarian cancer and our Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecountyil.gov.

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