

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

Governor's Weekly Radio Message Discusses Mother's Day Mammograms

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This week Governor Whitman encourages New Jerseyans to remind the women in their lives to get yearly mammograms and to remind the ones they love that early detection of breast cancer often saves lives.

The Governor highlights a program offered by Rite-Aid pharmacies. The program "Mother's Day Mammograms" is a reminder that while New Jerseyans are celebrating Mother's Day it is a good time to encourage breast cancer screenings. The program also assists qualified women receive free mammograms.

Last year, approximately 6,200 New Jerseyans were diagnosed with breast cancer. More tragically, 1,500 women died from breast cancer in 1998.

Attached is the text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

Radio Message for May 7 Mother's Day Mammograms

Hello, this is Governor Christie Whitman wishing all the mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers, and godmothers in our state a happy and healthy Mother's Day.

It's been said that mothers are able to think of the future because they give birth to it through their children. When mothers think of the future, I hope they will remember their own future - and do all they can to make it a healthy one.

This year, a nationwide effort sponsored by Rite-Aid pharmacies is marking its 10th anniversary. The program is called "Mother's Day Mammograms." It's a reminder to all women - especially those of us age 40 and older - to get a breast screening every year. What's more, the company provides free screenings for certain women 40 and older depending on income level and insurance coverage.

In a moment I will give the toll-free number you can call to find out if you qualify. But first, let me give you some facts about breast cancer and how you can help yourself enjoy a healthier life.

Last year, approximately 6,200 New Jerseyans were diagnosed with breast cancer. That's a disturbing reality, but more tragic is that 1,500 New Jersey women died from breast cancer in 1998. And while survival rates have increased in recent years, which is probably because more women are getting mammograms and breast exams, unfortunately, the increase has been much less pronounced among African-American women.

It's so important to detect breast cancer early. The earlier it's found, the better the chances for successful treatment. I encourage every woman to perform a self-exam once a month and get a clinical exam by a doctor or nurse once a year. Better yet, you should also take the time to get a mammogram. The fact is, a mammogram can detect cancer as much as two years before you or your doctor can feel it.

Here's the toll-free number to call to find out whether you qualify for a free screening: 1-888-748-3669. That's 1-888-748- 3669.

Whether you can take advantage of this program or not, I hope everyone who is a mother or knows a mother will help us spread the word that mammograms can save lives.

Mother's Day started as one person's effort to honor a special woman. In that spirit, I hope you will make it an annual tradition to honor special women in your life - including yourself. Get a yearly mammogram, and encourage your friends and loved ones to do the same. It could be the best Mother's Day gift you ever give or receive.

Thank you.