

# PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET



Department of Health & Human Services

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## Lung Cancer

### What is Lung Cancer?

Lung cancer typically begins as a tiny spot on the inner lining of a bronchial tube. It can take many years for lung cancer to develop and be discovered. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths for both men and women.

### What are the Symptoms of Lung Cancer?

- Constant chest pain
- Persistent cough
- Blood in saliva
- Wheezing
- Shortness of breath during routine activities
- Hoarseness
- Fever
- Neck enlargement
- Weight loss
- Arm and shoulder pain
- Repeated pneumonia and bronchitis

### What are the Risk Factors for Lung Cancer?

- Smoking
- Second hand smoke
- Exposure to radon
- Air pollution
- Occupational exposure to hazardous agents, such as asbestos
- Scarred area from a previous inflammation
- Exposure to asbestos

### How is Lung Cancer Detected?

- X-ray
- Sputum cytology- the microscopic examination of cells obtained from a deep-cough sample of mucus in the lungs
- Biopsy- the removal of a small sample of tissue for examination under a microscope



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## **How can the Risk of Lung Cancer be Reduced?**

- Stop smoking
- Take measures to reduce exposure to second hand smoke
- Test your home for radon
- Follow safety guidelines in the workplace.
- A diet rich in fruits and vegetables may be protective

## **How can Lung Cancer be Treated?**

- Surgery - removal of the tumor
- Chemotherapy - use of anticancer drugs to kill cancer cells
- Radiation therapy - use of high energy x-rays to kill cancer cells
- Photodynamic therapy (PDT) - type of laser surgery

The best treatment for you needs to be determined by you and your health care provider

**For more information on Lung Cancer, call (248) 858-1406 or toll free 1 (800) 848-5533.**

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