



**Reeves County**  
Hospital District

**Press Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Local Hospital Offers Free Breast Cancer Screenings**

*October event promotes early detection for better treatment of breast cancer.*

PECOS, Texas (Oct.12, 2020) – Breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer death among Texas women. Fortunately, when the disease is detected early, treatment can be much more effective. Screening mammograms check for breast cancer in women who have no signs of breast cancer or symptoms of the disease.

“Regular screenings are key to detecting breast cancer early,” said Dr. Deitrick L. Gorman, Family Practice w/OB physician at the Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic, a service of Reeves County Hospital District. . “Our annual event is an important way that we can make a difference and save lives. Early detection is our best tool to beat the disease”

According to state health statistics, more than one third of Texas women over 40 are past due for a breast cancer screening. The American Cancer Society recommends that women ages 45 to 54 get a mammogram annually. Women 55 and older can switch to a mammogram every other year or choose to maintain an annual screening.

Breast cancer is a malignant tumor that develops from breast tissue and, like many cancers, can quickly spread to other organs in the body if not detected early.

Survival rates for those treated with early Stage 1 breast cancer are 99 percent at five years. If detected later, at Stage 3, the five-year survival rate drops to 57 percent.

Unlike many rural healthcare facilities in Texas, Reeves County Hospital District has a permanent 3D digital mammography scanner available year-round. Just like the equipment used at larger hospitals in urban communities, the digital 3D mammography scanner remains the most practical and accurate screening tool available for the early detection of breast cancer.

Images from 3D digital mammograms are processed using advanced computer imaging technology. The result is instant, higher resolution images of the breast compared to older film-based imaging.

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According to Dr Gorman, some people have chosen to delay healthcare services, including cancer screenings, due to fear of COVID-19.

“Don’t put your health at risk by delaying the care you need,” Dr. Gorman said. “Regular screenings are key to early detection of breast cancer. Skipping yours this year is not a good idea.”

To learn more, please visit with your local healthcare provider or call 432-447-3551, extension 5537 for more information.

### **About Reeves County Hospital District**

Reeves County Hospital District (RCHD) provides healthcare services for people in Reeves County and neighboring communities in West Texas. Founded in 1954, RCHD, a Level IV Trauma Center, offers a wide variety of medical services, including emergency care, diagnostic radiology, physical therapy, general surgery, a clinical laboratory and more. RCHD also operates American Home Health and Hospice and the Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic, which offers family care, immunizations and other medical services. For more information, please visit [www.reevescountyhospital.com](http://www.reevescountyhospital.com).

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