

**SUN SAFETY** IN ACTION



Increasing Sun Safety policies & practices in community settings  
 Educating and promoting the dangers of **Indoor Tanning**

**PTO POLICIES** IN ACTION



Increasing the adoption of worksite policies for paid time off benefits for employees to get cancer screenings

**HPV VACCINE** IN ACTION



Increasing the number of community education interventions to build support for the HPV vaccine as cancer prevention.

## St. Mary's Healthcare

### Montgomery County NY Adopts Cancer Prevention Policy Package

CPiA at St. Mary's Healthcare, serving Fulton, Montgomery and Schenectady counties partnered with Montgomery County, NY to craft a cancer prevention policy package for their 450 employees. In the fall of 2022, Montgomery County expanded a Cancer Screening Paid Time Off Benefit from an existing four-hour bank of time for each employee to an eight-hour bank of time for each employee every calendar year to be screened for cancer.



The goal of this initiative was to detect cancer early when it is most successful to treat or before it can start to grow, for all cancers throughout their career. Each employee is encouraged to talk to their healthcare provider and make an informed decision about screenings that are best for them to obtain each calendar year including: breast, cervical, colon, lung, prostate, and skin cancer. The health of their workforce is a priority, and the employees feel this commitment and feel supported by their employer to get screened for cancer. In under a year, Montgomery County employees utilized over 300 hours of Cancer Screening Paid Time Off to be screened for cancer!

CPiA also helped Montgomery County with a Sun Safety policy for their workforce in all nine locations including components of sun safety education, signage (including sunscreen dispensers), communication (educational sessions, email blasts, postcards, etc.), increased shade (tents), adjusted work assignment hours and personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees most exposed to the sun.

CPiA congratulates Montgomery County, NY on their successful efforts to take action against cancer for their employees. Montgomery County is made of something stronger.

Your Organization Can Take Action Against Cancer!  
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## Broome County

### Broome County Welcomes New CPiA Staff

Broome County would love to introduce their two newest Cancer Prevention in Action coordinators, Michelle Bertoni and Alicia Spencer. Alicia will be coordinating the initiative full time and Michelle will be on half of the time. Also, we would like to reintroduce Aimee Chalaisant as the Supervising Public Health Educator. Aimee will be supervising the grant overall.



Before coming to the Health Department Michelle taught yoga for several years both in studios and out of her house. Michelle recently graduated from SUNY Cortland as a nontraditional student with a BS in Community Health and is currently earning her MS in Community Health.

Before coming to the Health Department Alicia worked for the American Diabetes Association in the Type 1 Diabetes Department. Alicia graduated from Ithaca College with a BS in Exercise Science with a concentration in special populations.

Aimee has been with the Broome County Health Department since 2015. She has worked with various grants including Cancer Prevention in Action before she was recruited to work on the COVID-19 response team. Aimee has been the main coordinator for Creating Healthy Schools and Communities for the last 5 years.

Michelle, Alicia, and Aimee are looking forward to working with Broome County organizations on creating Sun Safety Policies, Cancer Screening Paid Off Policies, educating our community about the dangers of Indoor Tanning and the benefits of the HPV Vaccine. These proven strategies will help prevent 42% of new cancers.

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## Health Initiative

### Back to School Success in St. Lawrence County

Each August, parents and caregivers start gearing up for a new school year. This back-to-school season, CPiA at the St. Lawrence Health Initiative, encouraged parents to add one more thing to their checklist: HPV vaccination. We want to do everything we can to keep our children healthy for life, right? With the HPV vaccine, parents are able to protect their children from six cancers caused by HPV, a common virus that will affect 8 in 10 people in their lifetime.

Over the span of three weeks, CPiA Program Coordinator, Angelina Blank, tabled at six (6) back to school events throughout St. Lawrence County. At each event, there was information about the HPV vaccine as cancer prevention. Additionally, there was a concerted effort to educate parents that vaccination can start at age 9. There are multiple benefits to starting at age 9, such as there is a stronger immune response, it increases the likelihood of vaccinating prior to first HPV exposure, and it decreases the number of shots needed to complete the series (two instead of three).

The questions asked by some parents demonstrate why community outreach like this is important. Some parents did not know the HPV vaccine was for all genders; there were some parents who did not know the HPV vaccine is protection against 6 types of cancer. The rate of 13-year-olds up to date on the HPV vaccine series in St. Lawrence County is only 22%. This falls short of the New York State goal of 34% and it is incredibly far from the American Cancer Society goal of 80% by 2026. Our work continues as we try to spread the word about protecting our children from getting cancer later in life.



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Community Cancer Prevention in Action (CPiA) supports a policy and systems change approach to cancer prevention and risk reduction conducted by Cancer Prevention in Action (ny.gov) in 17 NYS counties. Grantees currently focus on policy and systems changes to reduce risk for skin cancer; increase human papillomavirus vaccine rates to prevent HPV-related cancers; and promote employer paid time off policies for cancer screening.

[TakeActionAgainstCancer.com](http://TakeActionAgainstCancer.com)

This project is supported with funds from the State of New York.

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**Glens Falls Hospital**

**New School Year, Fresh Sun Safer Start:**

**Lake George Central School District the Newest School District to Take Action**

Lake George Central School District started the 2023-2024 school year as CPiA of Glens Falls Hospital's newest Sun Safer School Districts. The District created an action plan full of strategies that will help reduce skin cancer outcomes for generations and that are sustainable.



Strategies include; promoting sun safety using consistent messaging via Parent Square to all K-12 families, inviting CPiA into middle and high school health classrooms to increase awareness about skin cancer prevention, adding books about sun safety and other cancer prevention materials to the Elementary and High School libraries, and increasing the school communities access to shade and sunscreen at each campus.

The Lake George Central School District is located on and around the "Queen of Lakes". As a lake community in the Adirondacks and a year-round tourist destination, this school community knows the importance of sun safety all year round.



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SARATOGA  
WARREN  
WASHINGTON

ALBANY MED Health System  
GLENNS FALLS HOSPITAL  
Health Promotion Center

**Columbia University**

**Working together to reduce cancer rates in Staten Island:**

**Elected Officials Learn the Importance of CPiA**

Columbia University's CPiA team attended New York State Assemblyman Tannousis' Boardwalk Bash health fair event in September to spread the word about skin cancer risk reduction and the HPV vaccination.

On this sunny day, we reminded many people about the importance of using sunscreen, staying in the shade, and also shared information on how the HPV vaccination is another effective way of preventing cancer.

Several elected officials were present, including Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo (pictured), who we spoke with about the importance of our CPiA work.

We hope to continue building a relationship with elected official offices and working together to reduce cancer rates on Staten Island.



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HERBERT IRVING COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER



**New York State**



**Cancer Consortium**

**Working Together,  
Reducing Cancer, Saving Lives**

New York State Cancer Consortium ([nyscancerconsortium.org](http://nyscancerconsortium.org)) is a voluntary network of individuals and organizations throughout New York State (NYS) that collaborate to address the cancer burden. The Consortium and its members are guided by the NYS Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan and work to leverage partnerships to implement and plan priority interventions within their communities.

**Stony Brook Cancer Center**

**"I'll Take Cancer Prevention for \$800, Alex!"**

**Stony Brook University Students Learn About HPV Vaccination and Play HPV Jeopardy**



"This safe, effective vaccine prevents over 90% of HPV cancers". Stony Brook University (SBU) students learned this and more with Stony Brook Cancer Center's CPiA team at our 'What is HPV?' Education & Jeopardy event. Over 60 students gathered for an educational workshop, hosted by guest speaker, Dr. Mary-Koslap Petraco, of SBU's School of Nursing. Students learned how to protect themselves from HPV, and how to be HPV vaccine champions in their future careers in nursing and healthcare. Students then tested their knowledge by playing 'What is HPV' Jeopardy.

A vaccine support table was available to students outside the event classroom, hosted by Dr. Kathleen Scarbrough, with Family, Population, and Preventative Medicine at Stony Brook Medicine. Dr. Scarbrough worked with students one-on-one to lookup their HPV vaccine status in NYSIIS and provide support in scheduling vaccine appointments for those not vaccinated. Dr. Scarbrough has conducted research on HPV vaccine knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs among SBU students, with one major finding being that many students are not aware of their vaccine status or how to obtain their vaccine record. Other findings from this research were used to inform our education at this event, including students' concerns about vaccine safety and cost, as well as lack of awareness of the prevalence of HPV and associated cancers.

CPiA also partnered with leaders from four student organizations; Pre-Nursing Society, Student Nursing Association, Women in Healthcare, and the American Association of Men in Nursing, who took the reins on organizing and promoting the event, with support from SBU's Center for Prevention & Outreach. Student leaders guided our efforts to best fit what students wanted to learn, how they wanted to learn it, and how to get the word out. Thanks to our SBU partners, we were able to take action against HPV cancers in a way that truly resonated with what students want and need to protect themselves.

where and when students were most available, and how to get the word out. Thanks to our SBU partners, we were able to take action against HPV cancers in a way that truly resonated with what students want and need to protect themselves.

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