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November is COPD Awareness Month

COPD Foundation calls for greater awareness, earlier diagnosis and improved care for millions living with COPD

Miami (October 29, 2026) - November is COPD Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), recognize the millions of people affected by the disease, and encourage individuals to take action for better lung health.

More than 30 million Americans are affected by COPD, yet approximately half remain undiagnosed. COPD, which includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema, can be caused by genetic factors and exposure to lung irritants, including tobacco smoke and air pollution.

Despite being a leading cause of death, COPD often goes unrecognized until symptoms become more severe. COPD is the third leading cause of death worldwide and the fifth leading cause of death in the United States.

"COPD Awareness Month is an important opportunity to shine a light on a disease that affects millions of people, many of whom don't even know they have it," said Jean Wright, M.D., MBA, CEO of the COPD Foundation. "Recognizing symptoms, understanding risk factors, and seeking an earlier diagnosis can make a meaningful

difference in people's lives. Through education, advocacy, and research, we are working to ensure that more people have the knowledge, resources and support they need to breathe better and live healthier lives."

This year's awareness campaign focuses on the risks faced by women; those exposed to occupational hazards, including veterans and firefighters; therapy and Medicare resources; early COPD; and co-occurring conditions.