

**Press Release – For Immediate Distribution**

Leudelange, 26/02/2026

## ***Mars Bleu (Blue March): BIONEXT at the Heart of the Organized Colorectal Cancer Screening Program A simple test to prevent a common and often silent cancer***

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***Mars Bleu (Blue March) is the European awareness month dedicated to colorectal cancer prevention and screening. Together with other healthcare stakeholders, including the Directorate of Health, the BIONEXT laboratory highlights the importance of regular, simple and accessible screening***

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### **Colorectal cancer: a reality in Luxembourg**

In Luxembourg, colorectal cancer is among the three most common cancers in both men and women. It is the second leading cause of cancer-related death, with 300 to 400 new cases recorded each year according to the National Cancer Registry and Fondation Cancer.

Colorectal cancer is generally asymptomatic until an advanced stage, which makes diagnosis difficult without biological testing.

Screening is therefore one of the key preventive measures in the fight against colorectal cancer.

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### **Screening: an essential prevention tool**

Colorectal cancer is treatable — but only if detected early.

Dr Paul-Elie Gosset, Medical Biologist at BIONEXT, explains: *“The mortality rate associated with this disease is gradually decreasing, notably thanks to advances in screening and treatment. However, it remains significant. The many new cases diagnosed each year highlight the importance of active prevention, particularly for people aged 45 and over, as the risk increases with age.”*

When detected at an early stage, colorectal cancer can be cured in 9 out of 10 cases.

Dr Gosset continues: *“Screening makes it possible to identify precancerous lesions or early-stage cancers. By managing the disease as soon as it is detected, we enable simpler interventions and less intensive treatments, while significantly improving prognosis. That is why it is recommended to perform this test every two years for people aged 45 to 74.”*

A simple test, performed regularly, can save lives.

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## Colorectal cancer in Luxembourg: a dedicated organized screening program

The Organized Colorectal Cancer Screening Program (PDOCCR) is coordinated by the Directorate of Health.

It is intended for people aged 45 to 74, residents and non-residents affiliated with the CNS.

Screening is simple, thanks to a self-sampling kit made available to eligible patients.

*“Residents receive a postal invitation to obtain their kit. Non-residents generally receive a test in their country of residence. However, they may participate in the Luxembourg program. To do so, they simply need to submit a request to the Coordination Centre for Cancer Screening Programs ([Centre de Coordination des Programmes de Dépistage des Cancers](#)),”* adds Dr Gosset.

Everything is therefore in place to enable all eligible individuals to complete their screening every two years.

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## The key role of BIONEXT in the Organized Colorectal Cancer Screening Program

Since September 2024, BIONEXT has been the reference laboratory designated by the Directorate of Health to perform colorectal cancer screening analyses. This mandate was awarded following a public procurement procedure.

*“As a major healthcare player in Luxembourg, it is only natural for BIONEXT to commit to the fight against cancer. We put the expertise of our teams at the service of the Luxembourg population, including cross-border workers,”* states Dr Gosset.

Within this framework, BIONEXT teams have developed an easier-to-use and easier-to-return sampling kit to help increase screening participation rates.

However, Luxembourg still has room for improvement when it comes to screening participation. Although the necessary infrastructure is in place (including easy-to-use kits), the participation rate in Luxembourg currently stands at 45%.

*“In Nordic countries, participation rates are around 75%. Awareness is therefore essential to ensure the success of colorectal cancer screening and to increase the proportion of people who participate in screening,”* emphasizes Dr Gosset.

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## How the program works

### WHO?

- Women and men aged 45 to 74
- Residents and non-residents
- Registered with the CNS

### WHAT?

#### 1- Screening invitation

- **Residents:**  
They receive a postal invitation from the Directorate of Health.
- **Non-residents registered with the CNS:**  
They can access the program upon request by contacting the Coordination Centre for Cancer Screening Programs ([Centre de Coordination des Programmes de Dépistage des Cancers](#)), by phone at (+352) 247-75550 or by email at [colorectal@ms.etat.lu](mailto:colorectal@ms.etat.lu)  
They will therefore be able to obtain their invitation and screening kits under the same conditions as Luxembourg residents.

#### 2- Receiving the self-sampling kit

Based on the invitation, a kit can be obtained:

- via [MyGuichet](#) (personal account)
- through the BIONEXT call center: (+352) 27 321 888



# BIONEXT

LABORATOIRE LUXEMBOURGEOIS  
D'ANALYSES MÉDICALES

- in [BIONEXT laboratories](#)
- in [all pharmacies](#) in Luxembourg.

Anyone who has already participated automatically receives a new kit every two years.

## **HOW?**

Screening is based on the FIT test (Fecal Immunochemical Test).

It detects invisible blood in the stool that may indicate cancerous or precancerous lesions.

The FIT test is performed through self-sampling at home. It is painless and takes less than five minutes.

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

If the result is negative, you will be invited to repeat the test in two years. A new kit will be sent to your home.

If the result is positive, a medical consultation and colonoscopy will be recommended. A positive test does not mean cancer but requires further investigation.

Results are sent to the patient, their doctor as listed on the identification form, and the doctor at the Coordination Centre.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

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- BIONEXT dedicated page: [Organized Colorectal Cancer Screening Program](#)
- our infographics explaining how to carry out the test: [I perform my test](#)
- our FAQ : [PDOCCR - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

**On the occasion of Blue March (*Mars Bleu*), take charge of your health, get screened and talk about it with those around you.**

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Visual content available at: <https://shorturl.at/IXIDR>

Folder **LOGOS** : BIONEXT

Folder **IMAGES (pictures)** : Illustration « Mars Bleu »

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## **About BIONEXT**

BIONEXT, a Luxembourg-based medical laboratory, offers a comprehensive range of diagnostic and therapeutic monitoring services.

BIONEXT stands out for its cutting-edge technology and commitment to innovation, proximity and efficiency.

With a team of more than 300 employees, BIONEXT is fully committed to meeting the needs of patients and healthcare professionals by providing essential medical data for fast and effective care.

Through its commitment, BIONEXT actively contributes to improving patients' health and well-being.

## **Contact :**

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