

Cervical cancer is preventable

 **4,000**

More than 4,000 women die of cervical cancer each year.

93% 

As many as 93% of cervical cancers could be prevented by screening and HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccination.

 **8 Million**

In 2012, 8 million US women ages 21 to 65 reported they had not been screened for cervical cancer in the last 5 years.

More than 12,000 women get cervical cancer every year. Up to 93% of cervical cancers are preventable. Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination helps prevent infection with the HPV types that cause most cervical cancers. The Papanicolaou (Pap) test screens for abnormal cells that may develop into cancer and the HPV test screens for the HPV virus that causes these cell changes. Even though screening works, 10% of women in the US in 2012 reported they had not been screened in the last 5 years. Every visit to doctors and nurses is an opportunity to discuss cervical cancer prevention. No woman should die of cervical cancer.

Doctors, nurses, and health systems can:

- ◇ Help women understand what screening tests are best for them and when they should get screened.
- ◇ Screen or refer all women as recommended at any visit.
- ◇ Make sure patients get their screening results and the right follow-up care quickly.
- ◇ Use reminder-recall systems to help doctors, nurses, and patients remember when screening and HPV vaccination are due.
- ◇ Strongly recommend that preteens and teens get vaccinated against HPV.

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Want to learn more? Visit

www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns

Prevent Cervical Cancer

with the **Right Test at the Right Time**



Screening tests can find abnormal cells so they can be treated before they turn into cancer.

① The Pap test looks for changes in cells on the cervix that could turn into cancer if left untreated.

② The human papillomavirus (HPV) test looks for the virus that causes these cell changes.

The only cancer the Pap test screens for is cervical.

HPV is the main cause of cervical cancer.



- ① HPV is a very common virus, passed from one person to another during sex.
- ② Most people get it, but it usually goes away on its own.
- ③ If HPV doesn't go away, it can cause cancer.

Most women don't need a Pap test every year!

Have your 1st Pap test when you're

21

If your test results are normal, you can wait **3** years for your next Pap test.



HPV tests aren't recommended for screening women under 30.



When you turn **30** you have a choice:

If your test results are normal, get a Pap test every **3** years.

OR

Get both a Pap test and an HPV test every **5** years.

You can stop getting screened if:

- ① You're older than 65 and have had normal Pap test results for many years.
- ② Your cervix was removed during surgery for a non-cancerous condition like fibroids.



The cervix is the lower, narrow end of the uterus (womb) that connects the uterus to the vagina (birth canal).



No insurance? You may be able to get free or low-cost screening through CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. Call (800) CDC-INFO or scan this QR code.

More information about cervical cancer:
www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/

