

# Cervical Cancer & Pap Tests

## Facts about Cervical Cancer

- Cervical cancer is a cancer of the cervix. The cervix is the bottom of the uterus, at the top of the vagina.
- The human papillomavirus (HPV) causes cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer can be serious and deadly if it is not found and treated early.

---

## Common Questions

---

### How do I get tested for cervical cancer?

A doctor will check your cervix for cancer or very early signs of possible cancer with a simple Pap test.

### Is cervical cancer preventable?

Yes! Women who have regular Pap tests are unlikely to get cervical cancer.

### How often should I get a Pap test?

Always talk to your doctor.

The *standard recommendations* for Pap tests are...

- **Ages 21-29:** Every 3 years
- **Ages 30-65:** Every 3 years, or every 5 years if done with the HPV test
- **Ages 66 and older:** If you have not been screened before
- **Ages 20 and under:** Do not need Pap tests

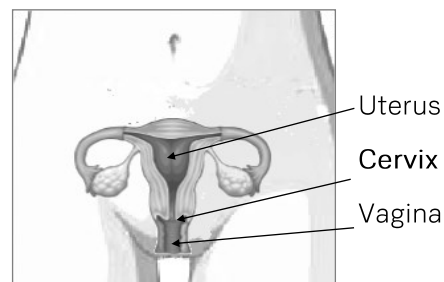
### What causes cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer is caused by the human papillomavirus.

HPV is an infection that is sexually transmitted. HPV can also cause genital warts and other types of cancers.

### How common is HPV infection?

It is very common. About half of all adults will have HPV at some point in their lives.



*more >>>*

---

## Common Questions (cont'd)

---

### How can HPV be prevented?

HPV vaccines are one important way to lower the risk of getting HPV and cervical cancer.

### When is the best time to get an HPV vaccine?

- The vaccine works best if given before having sex for the first time.
- Girls and boys should get the vaccine at ages 11 and 12, but they can get it anytime between the ages of 9 and 18 years old.
- Women and men may also get the vaccine up to age 26.
- Ask your doctor about getting vaccinated or call 1-800-793-8090 for a referral.

---

## Pap Test Appointments

---

### Where can I get a Pap test?

- If you have medical insurance/coverage, Medi-Cal, or Medicare, call your doctor.
- If you have no medical insurance/coverage, call



**Women's Health Hotline**  
**1-800-793-8090**

(Monday-Friday, 8 AM - 6 PM; or leave message)

Friendly operators from the Office of Women's Health can set up a free or low-cost appointment near you.

*Operators speak English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.*