

# What You Need to Know About Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer is one of the most common causes of cancer deaths for American women. But, it can be treated when found early. That's why it's important to be screened.

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# What You Need to Know About Cervical Cancer

When cancer forms in the cervix, it is often slow-growing and may not show symptoms. Cervical cancer is almost always caused by human papillomavirus (HPV), a virus that can be passed on through sexual activity. HPV infections are the most common sexually transmitted infections in the United States.

More than 40 types of HPV can be easily spread through direct sexual contact from infected people to their partners, both male and female. They can be spread by vaginal, anal, and oral sex. The types of HPV that can lead to cancer are the “high-risk” HPVs. Two of these account for about 70% of all cervical cancer cases. The HPV vaccine protects against these two types of high risk HPV.

## Get Screened for Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer can be found with regular screenings. Screenings look for cancer before symptoms may appear. When cancer is found early, it may be easier to treat. A Pap test is the type of screening that is used to find cervical cancer. The only time to worry about cervical cancer is when you skip routine screenings.

## HPV Vaccination

The HPV vaccine can greatly lower the risk of HPV infection and cancers caused by HPV. It is recommended for pre-teen boys and girls, ages 11-12, or before teens and pre-teens are sexually active. It can be given up to 26 years of age for anyone who has not received it earlier in life.



**With routine screenings, cervical cancer deaths are often preventable. Speak with your doctor about a cervical cancer screening, and to see if you are eligible for the HPV vaccine.**

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