

# January is Cervical Cancer Screening Month



## Quick Facts About Cervical Cancer & HPV

- Cervical cancer is highly preventable through regular screening.
- Cervical cancer is almost always caused by a common virus – human papillomavirus (HPV).
- Most women will have HPV at some point in their lives, but few will develop cervical cancer.
- Only HPV infection that persists for several years can put a woman at risk for cervical cancer.
- Screening for cervical cancer can be done by your doctor using a Pap test if you're younger than 30 or a Pap and HPV test if you're 30 or older.
- A Pap test looks for cell changes in the cervix that might lead to cancer.
- The HPV test looks for the virus that causes cervical cancer.
- When used together in women 30 and older, the Pap and HPV tests can better identify women needing early intervention to prevent cervical cancer.
- Women should ask their healthcare providers for the tests that best meet their screening needs.
- In addition, an HPV vaccine is now available for girls and young women ages 9 to 26. Although the vaccine will help prevent many HPV infections, screening will still be needed to prevent cervical cancer.

**Call your healthcare provider  
today for an appointment.**

<http://www.cluw.org/cervcancer.html>



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