



# Cervical Cancer

# What You Need to Know

And Reasons to Get Screened!  
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## What is cervical cancer?

Cancer is a disease in which cells in the body grow out of control. When cancer starts in the cervix, it is called cervical cancer. The cervix is the lower, narrow end of the uterus. The cervix connects the vagina (the birth canal) to the upper part of the uterus. Almost all cervical cancer is caused by HPV (human papillomavirus) that can be passed on during sexual activity.



## Are there tests to detect cervical cancer?

**Yes!** There are two tests that can either help prevent cervical cancer or find it early: 1) The Pap test/smear looks for precancerous cells. It can find cervical cancer early, when treatment is most effective. 2) The HPV test looks for human papillomavirus — the virus that can cause precancerous cells and cervical cancer.



## How can I prevent cervical cancer?

- See your doctor regularly for a Pap test that can find cervical precancers.
- Get the HPV vaccine. It protects against the types of HPV that most often cause cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers.
- Don't smoke.
- Use condoms during sex.
- Limit your number of sexual partners.



## *“When should I get tested for cervical cancer?”*

- **21 years:** When women should get their first Pap test
- **21—29 years:** Pap test should be done every **3** years
- **30—65 years:** Pap test should be done every **3** years, or very **5** years if done with an HPV test
- **Older than 65 years:** Talk with your doctor