

CERVICAL CANCER

Any woman can get cervical cancer. Women who are not screened, or have not been screened in a long time, could have cervical cancer and not know it. But the good news is that with regular screening and follow-up care, cervical cancer can be stopped before it starts, or found early — when treatment works best.



To learn more about cervical cancer, HPV, and getting screened, visit:

- Massachusetts Department of Public Health mass.gov/cancerscreenings
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/index.htm
www.cdc.gov/hpv/whatishpv.html
- American Cancer Society www.cancer.org/cancer/cervical-cancer.html

Talk to your health care provider about **cervical cancer screenings** and what's right for you.

One simple conversation could save your life.



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

mass.gov/cancerscreenings



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TO PREVENT CERVICAL CANCER FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS:

Talk to your doctor



All women 21 to 65 should get screened for cervical cancer.

How often you get screened may depend on:

- Your age
- Your Pap test history
- Your sexual activity

Ask your health care provider when and how often you should get screened, and make your appointment!

Understand cervical cancer and HPV

Nearly all cervical cancer is caused by the **human papillomavirus (HPV)**. HPV is passed between partners during sex and can lead to an infection in the cervix. Almost all sexually active people will have HPV at some point in their lives.

Most often, HPV will go away on its own. But if it does not, it could cause cervical cancer.

For more information about HPV, visit www.cdc.gov/hpv/whatishpv.html.

Get screened with a Pap test

The most common screening for cervical cancer is a **Pap test** (also called a **Pap smear** or **Papanicolaou test**), which checks for changes in the cells of your cervix that could turn into cancer over time. The Pap test can find these cells early when treatment works best.

All women ages 21 to 65 should get screened for cervical cancer. Women who may no longer be having sex or who may feel too old to have a child should still have regular Pap tests.

Cervical cancer often does not show signs until later. So it is important to get screened even when you feel healthy.

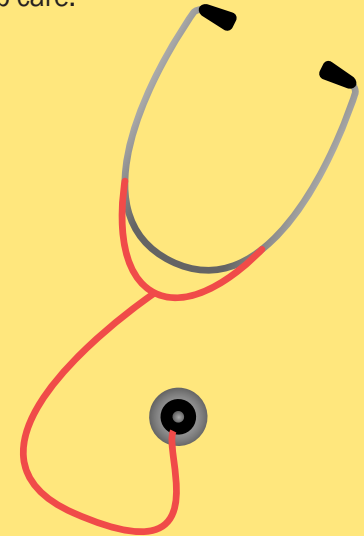
Talk with your health care provider about how often you should be screened.

How do I get screened for cervical cancer?



Follow up

Your health care provider will tell you how often you should get a Pap test. But **getting screened is not enough**. If your Pap test is not normal, talk to your health care provider about follow-up care.



For more information, please call the Women's Health Network at **1-877-414-4447**.