

Cervical Cancer

What is cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer is a cancer of the cervix. It is a disease that can be very serious; however, it is one that you can prevent. Cervical cancer affects 10,000 women in the United States each year and is the second most common type of cancer for women worldwide.

What are the symptoms of cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer can usually be found early, when it is most treatable, by having a laboratory test called a Pap test. Some women have no symptoms with early cervical cancer, so women should see their physicians regularly for Pap testing. Some women experience symptoms of cervical cancer including:

- Pelvic pain
- Bleeding between menstrual periods
- Increased urination
- Pain during urination

Women with symptoms should call their physician for an exam.

What is Human Papillomavirus (HPV)?

Most cervical cancer is caused by Human Papillomavirus (HPV). HPV is estimated to be the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States. A vaccine has been developed that is highly effective in preventing HPV infection and is available at many physician offices and local health departments. The vaccine is recommended for girls between the ages of 11-26 years old.

Is there a program available to screen for cervical cancer?

All Illinois counties participate in the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP), which offers free mammograms, Pap tests, and related exams to eligible, uninsured women age 35-64. To see if you qualify for free services or to find your local IBCCP, call the Peoria City/County Health Department at 679-6606.

For more information on cervical cancer, screenings and prevention, visit these links:

American Cancer Society: www.cancer.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical

Illinois Department of Public Health: www.idph.state.il.us

National Cancer Institute: www.cancer.gov/cervical



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Peoria City/County
Health Department**
Health Promotion &
Epidemiology Group