

Do You Need A Cervical Cancer Screening?

A quick guide to your cervical health

Who should get screened? – Any individual with a cervix including:

• **WOMEN • TRANSGENDER MEN • NONBINARY INDIVIDUALS**

Screening should begin at age 21 regardless of sexual history.

- **Over 65:** You may not need screening if prior results were normal.
- **Under 21:** No screening needed (HPV Vaccination recommended)
- ✓ Your healthcare professional may recommend a different schedule based on your health history

Not all pelvic exams include a Cervical Pap test

You may have had a pelvic exam and NOT have been screened for cervical cancers.

- ✓ Always ask: “Am I getting a Cervical Pap Smear today?”

These are DIFFERENT tests:

- **Cervical cancer screening:** You may have a **Cervical Pap test** alone or a **Cervical Pap with an HPV test**. Both help check for cervical cancer.
- **STI testing** → checks for sexually transmitted infections
- **Vaginitis testing** → checks for causes of irritation (like yeast or Bacterial Vaginitis)

Had a hysterectomy?

You may STILL need screening.

- **Cervix removed?** → Usually, no Cervical Pap needed
- **Cervix still there?** → You still need Pap tests
- ✓ Not sure? Ask us – we can help

Pregnant?

You may NOT automatically get a Pap test during prenatal visits.

- ✓ Ask your provider if you are due

Feeling nervous?

That's okay. Your comfort and safety matter.

- **A chaperone is available** (typically the nurse)
- **You may request an examiner of a specific gender**
- **An interpreter will be available if needed**
- **You are in control of your body and your care**
- **You can ask for the exam to stop at any time**
- **You will have a chance to ask questions before the exam**

• Why screening matters for everyone

Screening is important for everyone. Cervical cancer often does not show signs early, so people may not know they have it. Some groups, like Black and Hispanic women, are more likely to find out later, when the cancer is harder to treat. This can happen because they may not have the same chances to get regular checkups and care. Getting screened often helps find problems early, when they are easier to treat and fix.

Have questions? Ask your care team today.
716-898-3152

