

# Cervical Cancer Screening

## WHAT IS IT?

Your ob-gyn or other health care professional takes cells from the cervix and sends them to a lab for testing:

- A Pap test looks for abnormal cells.
- An HPV test looks for infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV) types that are linked to cervical cancer.

## FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

If you are younger than 21 years	<b>You do not need screening.</b>
If you are aged 21–29 years	Have a <b>Pap test every 3 years.</b>
If you are aged 30–65 years	You can <b>choose one of three options:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have a Pap test and an HPV test (co-testing) every 5 years</li><li>• Have a Pap test alone every 3 years</li><li>• Have an HPV test alone every 5 years</li></ul>
If you are 65 years or older	<b>You do not need screening</b> if you have no history of cervical changes and either three negative Pap test results in a row or two negative co-test results in a row within the past 10 years, with the most recent test performed within the past 5 years.

## REMEMBER!

- **You still need to have screening if you have been vaccinated against HPV.**
- **You still need to have screening if you have had a hysterectomy and your cervix was not removed.**

## EXCEPTIONS TO THESE GUIDELINES:

If any of these apply to you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You have human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).</li><li>• You have a weakened immune system.</li><li>• You have a history of cervical cancer.</li><li>• You were exposed to diethylstilbestrol before birth.</li></ul>	<b>You may need more frequent screening.</b>
If you have had a hysterectomy in which your cervix was removed and... <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• you have a history of cervical cancer or moderate to severe cervical changes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Continue to have screening</b> for 20 years after your surgery.</li><li>• <b>You do not need screening.</b></li></ul>



## SEE YOUR OB-GYN ANNUALLY FOR A WELL-WOMAN EXAM.

Even if you are not due for cervical cancer screening, you should still see your ob-gyn each year for birth control counseling, vaccinations, health screenings, preconception care, and the latest information about your reproductive health.

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