

# Cervical Cancer Quick Facts



- Cervical Cancer is one of the most preventable cancers.
- With regular screening and HPV vaccine, cervical cancer can be prevented.
- The HPV vaccine helps protect you from cervical, vaginal, throat, and anal cancers.



## What is Cervical Cancer?

- Cervical cancer is a disease in the cervix. The cervix connects the birth canal (vagina) to the upper part of the uterus (womb). The uterus is where the baby grows during pregnancy.
- HPV (human papillomavirus) is the main cause of cervical cancer.
- HPV is a common virus spread through sexual activity. Certain types of HPV are more likely to cause cervical cancer.

## Symptoms of Cervical Cancer May Include:

- Abnormal vaginal bleeding or menstrual periods that are longer or heavier.
- Bleeding after sexual intercourse. Unusual vaginal discharge.
- Pelvic pain or pain during sexual intercourse.

## Ways You Can Prevent Cervical Cancer:

- **Age 21-29:** Start screening for cervical cancer with Pap test and repeat every 3 years if results are normal.
- **Age 30-65:** Talk to your doctor about which cervical cancer screening test is right for you:
  - **HPV test only** (primary HPV testing): If result is normal, you may be able to wait 5 years until your next HPV test.
  - **HPV test with Pap test** (co-testing): If both results are normal, you may be able to wait 5 years until your next screening HPV and Pap tests.
  - **Pap test only:** If result is normal, you may be able to wait 3 years until your next Pap test.
- **Older than age 65:** Talk to your doctor, you may no longer need to be screened for cervical cancer.

*Cervical cancer often starts silently without signs or symptoms. Don't wait to get screened!*

HPV Vaccine Schedule: CDC recommends routine vaccination at ages 11 or 12 years. The vaccine can be started at age 9 years. The vaccine is also recommended for adults up to age 26.

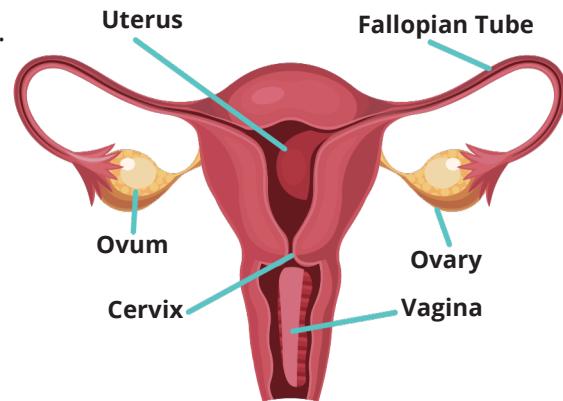
Age	Number of Doses Needed	When to get a 2nd Dose	When to get a 3rd Dose
9-14 years (except immunocompromised persons)	2 Doses *	6-12 months after 1st dose	*Only if 2nd dose was given less than 5 months after 1st dose
15-26 years (and immunocompromised persons initiating vaccination at ages 9 through 26 years)	3 Doses	1-2 months after 1st dose	6 months after 1st dose

The New Mexico Breast and Cervical Cancer (BCC) Early Detection Program offers free breast and cervical cancer screening, like Pap tests, HPV tests, and mammograms through contracted healthcare providers across New Mexico. You may be able to use these services if you have a low income and have little or no insurance.



New Mexico Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

## Female Reproductive System



**NMDOH Helpline**  
Call: 1-833-SWNURSE  
(1-833-796-8773)  
Text: NMDOH(66364)