Central Michigan
District Health Department
Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

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PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: **Local News Media**

From: **Central Michigan District Health Department**

RE: **January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month**

Release Date: **Immediately (December 17, 2020)**

Central Michigan District Health Department Urges Women and Their Loved Ones to Help Prevent Cervical Cancer

January is National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) reminds the community that cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers that affect women. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2020, an estimated 13,800 new cases of cervical cancer were diagnosed with an estimated 4,290 deaths from the disease. In Michigan alone in 2019, there were 360 new diagnoses with an estimated 120 deaths from cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer usually develops slowly, beginning as simple abnormal cells. If left untreated, these cells can progress into cancer. About 2 out of every 3 cervical cancers are caused by certain strains of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). Vaccines have been shown to prevent the types of HPV that lead to cervical cancer. Currently there are two HPV vaccines, Cervarix and Gardasil, available for both boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 26. Healthcare providers recommend getting your teens vaccinated. In October 2018, the FDA approved the use of Gardasil 9 for males and females ages 27-45. Both vaccines are available by calling your local health department branch office and making an appointment. This vaccine is recommended for males also, because they can carry the virus and infect women leading to cervical cancer.

The Pap test is a specific screening test for cervical cancer and is not the same as a pelvic exam, although the Pap test is done in conjunction with a pelvic exam. A Pap test is a simple and effective exam that can detect abnormal cervical cells. If abnormal cells are found, treatment can usually be done to remove these cells and prevent them from turning into cervical cancer. Cervical cancer screenings are usually fast and easy. All women who have reached the age of 21 should have regular interval cervical cancer screening. Following recommended Pap smear screening guidelines can reduce a woman's risk of cervical cancer.

Men and women should use the month of January to encourage partners and loved ones to schedule a cervical cancer screening appointment and talk to their health care provider about the HPV vaccine. Join CMDHD this month in telling mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, family, and friends that "You Can Prevent Cervical Cancer".

Central Michigan District Health Department provides cervical cancer screenings to all women through our Family Planning and Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Navigation Programs. CMDHD, through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Navigation Program, provides free Pap tests and breast cancer screenings with mammograms to women aged 21-64 with limited income and little or no health insurance. For more information on cancer screening services offered at CMDHD, contact your local CMDHD branch office.

Arenac County: (989) 846-6541 ext. 1316

Clare County: (989) 539-6731 ext. 1216

Gladwin County: (989) 426-9431 ext. 1316

Isabella County: (989) 773-5921 ext. 1406

Osceola County: (231) 832-5532 ext. 1216

Roscommon County: (989) 366-9166 ext. 1316

For more information on cervical cancer, please visit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/CervicalCaFactSheet_497916_7.pdf.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org, LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @CMiDHD.

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To request an interview, please visit our website (cmdhd.org) and fill out the Media Interview Request Form.