



# 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:** January 4, 2022

### **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 2021, an estimated 14,480 new cases of cervical cancer will be diagnosed with an estimated 4,290 deaths from the disease. In the year 2018, which is the latest year for which data is available, the United States had 12,733 new cases of cervical cancer among women, and 4,138 women died. For every 100,000 women, 8 new cervical cancer cases were reported with 2 deaths.

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

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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, sons, 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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information on cervical cancer, please visit the websites of [MDHHS](#) or [CDC](#).

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](http://www.cmdhd.org), LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @CMiDHD.

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