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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Cervical Cancer Screenings Save Women's Lives *January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month*

In observance of **Cervical Cancer Awareness Month** in January, the Pinellas County Health Department reminds all women that cervical cancer is preventable with regular screening tests and follow-up care. Cervical cancer is also highly curable when found and treated early. Although it occurs most often in women over age 30, all women are at risk for cervical cancer.

The main cause of cervical cancer is the human papillomavirus (HPV), which can be passed from one person to another during sex. Many people will have an HPV infection at some time in their lives but, because HPV usually goes away on its own, few will get cervical cancer.

The Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program makes it possible for women to get the breast and cervical cancer screenings doctors recommend. The screenings are free or low cost for women who meet program eligibility requirements, which are.

- Women ages 50 to 64, and who
- Do not have insurance that covers the Pap smear tests, and who
- Meet the income guideline, which is a household income at or below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level. (Eligible women with yearly gross incomes of \$44,700 or less for a family of four would qualify.)

To see if you or someone you know qualifies for the Florida Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program call the Pinellas County Health Department at (727) 824-6917 or go to <http://pinellashealth.com/BreastCervicalScreening.asp> for more information. Services provided include breast and cervical cancer screenings, some diagnostic exams and referral to treatment if needed. The program is funded for a set number of services each year.

For information about the Pinellas County Health Department, go to www.PinellasHealth.com.

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