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Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Screening and Vaccines Can Prevent Cervical Cancer

DUPAGE COUNTY— January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and the DuPage County Health Department wants residents to know that cervical cancer is preventable, and treatable when found early, and a program is available to provide screenings for women who lack health insurance.

Last year, approximately 13,800 women in the United States were diagnosed with cervical cancer and more than 4,000 died as a result. Around the world, cervical cancer often impacts women who lack awareness about the disease and those without access to healthcare.

Almost all cervical cancers are caused by human papillomavirus (HPV), a common virus that can be passed from one person to another during sex. There are many types of HPV. Some HPV types can cause changes on a woman's cervix that can lead to cervical cancer over time, while other types can cause genital or skin warts. The HPV vaccine protects against the types of virus that most often cause cervical cancer. Screening tests, like the Pap test and HPV test, can be used to help prevent cervical cancer and to find it in its early stages.

Cervical cancer can be prevented, or found early, by following these steps and consulting with your physician:

- Vaccinate - recommended for females and males ages 9 to 26 years
- Regular Pap tests - beginning at 21 years
- HPV test - women 30 years and older

Millions of Illinois adolescents and young adults have received the HPV vaccine. With the vaccination of millions of others across the country, statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have shown that cervical cancer rates are falling dramatically among U.S. women under 35 years of age. HPV vaccination rates remain suboptimal but are rising.

STAY SAFE | **-More-**
DUPAGE



WEAR
A MASK



WATCH
YOUR DISTANCE



WASH
YOUR HANDS

Tenacious attention to HPV vaccination promises to eventually end cervical cancer among Illinois women in the coming decades.

The Health Department offers the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) to DuPage County residents who are underinsured or uninsured. This important program is provided in part through a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health and offers free breast cancer and cervical cancer screenings for low-income residents. IBCCP was established to address barriers and disparities in screening and treatment and has assisted tens of thousands of Illinoisans.

The links below offer additional information about cervical cancer:

- [Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [American Cancer Society](#)
- [National Cancer Institute](#)

For information, please visit <https://www.dupagehealth.org/331/Breast-and-Cervical-Cancer-Program> or call (630) 682-7400.

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