



Cervical Cancer

Your Questions Answered

What is a pap smear?

A pap smear is a test that checks for cancer of the cervix, the way into the uterus (womb). Some of the cells from the cervix will be taken to screen for cells that are not normal.

Why should I care about cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer is the fourth leading cause of death in people with a cervix worldwide. Almost all cases of cervical cancer are caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV). Cervical cancer can be curable when found and treated early.

What is HPV?

HPV is a virus that can cause infection that leads to cervical, vaginal, throat, penile, and vulvar cancer. Cervical cancer is almost always caused by HPV infections.

Can I stop HPV?

Getting the HPV shot can help stop HPV. It is safe and protects you against types of germs that cause cervical cancer. The HPV shot can start as early as age 9, as it produces a stronger immune response. A person between the ages of 9 to 45, no matter what their gender, should talk to their doctor about the HPV shot.

Who should get a pap smear?

Anyone with a cervix who is sexually active or age 21 and older should get a routine test. Talk to your doctor to see when and how often you should get a pap smear done.

Is getting a pap smear painful?

Each person with a cervix is unique and has many comfort levels. It is uncomfortable. You may feel slight, brief pain.



70%

Studies show getting a pap smear each 3-year period can cut your risk of cervical cancer by 70%.

National Cervical Cancer Coalition

85%

If cervical cancer is caught at its earliest stages, the chances of living is more than 85%.

BC Cancer Cervix Screening

50%

Pap smears have helped lower cervical cancer death rate by 50%.

American Cancer Society



Take time for yourself.

If you have a disability, you can request special accommodations to get a pap smear. If you need interpretation at your visit, call our Customer Service Department.

www.hpsj.com/health

1-888-936-PLAN (7526) | 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Health Plan
of San Joaquin

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