

**WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE
THE HPV CERVICAL CANCER
VIRUS?**

- If the doctor finds bad cells in your cervix, you need to return to the clinic to be treated. It takes about 4 visits to be treated and it is not expensive.
- Early screening allows for a more successful treatment. Cervical cancer can be treated – it is not a death sentence.
- It is important to tell other women to get tested.



**What You Need to
Know About
Cervical Cancer**

*Only you can be conscious of your
body because nobody else will.*



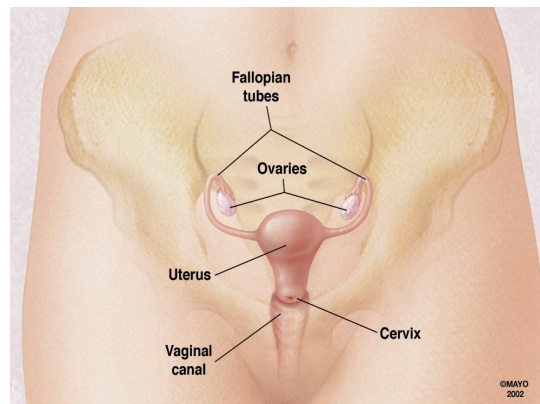
**Building Healthy Families,
Healthy Communities and a
Better Tomorrow**

WHAT IS CERVICAL CANCER AND HOW IS IT CAUSED?

- Cervical cancer is caused by a virus infection, called human papillomavirus (HPV).
- Cervical cancer is only found in women. Men do not have a cervix but they can still transmit the virus.
- Men and women transfer the HPV cervical cancer virus to each other by sex.
- You can be infected with HPV and not know it. You will not feel the virus or see it. Usually there are no symptoms.

HOW CAN I PROTECT AGAINST HPV CERVICAL CANCER VIRUS INFECTION?

- **Cervical cancer is preventable.** You can decrease the risk of getting the HPV cervical cancer virus by:
 - Limiting the number of sexual partners
 - Using a condom
- If you have HIV virus and the HPV cervical cancer virus, you are more likely to develop cervical cancer.



Female Reproductive Organs

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE HPV CERVICAL CANCER VIRUS?

- After being infected by the HPV cervical cancer virus, it takes about 10 years for cancer to develop.
- The only way to know if you have an HPV infection is to get tested by a doctor.
- Pap tests detect changes in the cervix. A doctor will take a sample from your vagina for testing.
- If the virus is detected early, doctors can prevent cervical cancer from developing. You should get regular Pap tests at the clinic every three years

