

Your Chances of Getting Cervical Cancer

How would I know if I have a higher chance of getting cervical cancer?

Some women have a higher chance than others of getting cervical cancer. Here are some things that can give you a higher chance of getting cervical cancer.

Check the things that are true for you.

- _____ 1. I have never had a Pap test.
- _____ 2. I have not had a Pap test for a few years.
- _____ 3. My doctor or nurse has told me I have HPV (human papillomavirus).
- _____ 4. I started having sex when I was young (16 or younger).
- _____ 5. I have had sex with many partners.
- _____ 6. I smoke.

If I checked any of these things does it mean that I will get cervical cancer?

If you checked any of these things, it **does not** mean you will get cervical cancer. It **does** mean you have a higher chance of getting it than someone who has none of these things checked. You should talk to your doctor or nurse about your chance of getting cervical cancer.

What if I think I might have a higher chance of getting cervical cancer?

The best thing you can do is to see a doctor or nurse for a Pap test. A Pap test can find changes in the cervix **before** they turn into cancer.

What is a Pap test?

The doctor or nurse uses a swab, a small brush, or a small stick to take a few cells from the cervix. The cells go on a slide. The slide goes to a lab where they look at the cells under a microscope.

How often do I need a Pap test?

Most women need a Pap test at least once every three years, even after the change of life (menopause). You should ask your doctor or nurse how often you need a Pap test.

What if I don't have a doctor or nurse? What if I can't afford to see one?

Here's how to find out where to see a doctor or nurse **and** about getting a free or low-cost Pap test.

- Call your local health department or clinic
- or**
- Call the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (WVBCCSP) at 1-800-642-8522. The call is free.
- or**
- Call the Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER
 - (1-800-422-6237). The call is free.



What if I want to quit smoking?

- Call the West Virginia Quit Line at 1-877-Y-NOT-QUIT (1-877-966-8784). The call is free.
- Call the National Network of Tobacco Cessation Quitlines at 1-800-QUITNOW (1-800-332-8615). The call is free.
- Call the Cancer Information Service's Smoking Quitline at 1-877-44U-QUIT (1-877-448-7848). The call is free.

