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More than 80 percent of cervical cancer is preventable with HPV vaccination, screening

District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) encourages women to prevent and detect cervical cancer with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination and a Pap test as they are the best forms of defense against cervical cancer.

HPV (human papillomavirus) is a common infection that spreads through sexual activity. It is also a major cause of cervical cancer. About 79 million Americans currently have HPV, but many people with HPV do not know they are infected.

The HPV vaccine is a series of 2 or 3 shots that is safe and effective in preventing cervical cancer. The vaccine is recommended to be given to males and females at age 11-12, however can be given through age 26.

The Pap test is a simple, affordable, and easy-to-administer screening test to detect cervical cancer. Still, more than half of cervical cancer deaths are seen in women who have either never had a Pap test, or have not had testing in more than five years. Screening for cervical cancer with the Pap test is recommended to begin at age 21.

Women can receive the HPV vaccination and Pap test at their local DHD#10 office. DHD#10 serves men and women of all ages. These preventative services are provided at no cost to you due to changes in the health care reform law.

DHD#10's Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program can provide Pap testing for women age 40-64 who have limited income, no health insurance, are underinsured, and or have a high deductible insurance plan. Pap testing is also available to women through DHD#10's Family Planning Clinics. If insurance cannot be billed or a person is uninsured, services will be charged on a sliding scale; no one is denied service due to inability to pay. If you or your child do not have insurance that covers the HPV vaccination, DHD#10 can provide low-cost vaccine options.

Contact your local DHD#10 office or health care provider today to see if you require a Pap screening or are eligible to receive the HPV vaccination To locate a DHD#10 office near you or to make an appointment, visit www.dhd10.org or call (888) 217-3904, press option #2.

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