



Clinton County Health Department

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

"Working Together for a Healthier Community"

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Clinton County Health Department Press Release "Cervical Cancer Awareness Month" January 8, 2010

The Clinton County Health Department's Cancer Screening Program want all women in Clinton County to take some time this January to observe Cervical Health Awareness Month by scheduling an annual gynecologic exam with your health care provider. "This is an excellent time for women to talk to their health care provider about getting screened for cervical cancer," said Lisa Marlow, Sr. Public Health Educator for the Clinton County Health Department. "With regular screening and follow-up care, cervical cancer is avoidable and if caught early, curable."

Cervical cancer is almost always caused by persistent infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV). There usually aren't any symptoms of cervical cancer in its earliest, most treatable stage. That is why having a regular Pap test is key to prevention. In the United States, the Pap test has reduced cervical cancer rates by more than 70%.

In addition to HPV, there are other factors that increase a woman's risk of developing cervical cancer, including:

- Not having regular Pap tests
- Not following up with your health care provider if you had a Pap test result that is not normal
- Having HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, or another condition that makes it hard for your body to fight off health problems
- Smoking

"All women are at risk for cervical cancer," said Marlow. "It is especially important for women who have not had a Pap test within the past five years to get screened because 6 out of 10 cervical cancers occur in women who have never received a Pap test or have not had one in the past five years." It is also important to continue getting a Pap test, even if you think you are too old to have a child, or are not having sex anymore. Many women over 30 can be tested every 2-3 years. It is important to remember that women of ALL ages need to see their gynecologist once a year, whether or not they receive a Pap test.

New York State funds the Cancer Services Program to provide access to cervical cancer screening to uninsured women, ages 40 and older. To contact the Cancer Services Program visit www.clintonhealth.org or call (518) 562-7112.

Endorsed by: _____

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