The best protection against cervical cancer is HPV* vaccination and regular screening tests.

- Boys and girls should complete the HPV vaccine series at age 11 or 12.
- Women should get screened for HPV and cancer.
- If you smoke, quit. If you don’t smoke, don’t start.

The HPV vaccine can prevent about 90% of cervical cancers, and a number of other cancers in males and females.

The HPV vaccine can be given as early as age 9 and up to age 45.

Screening guidelines

- **Age 21-29**
  Get a Pap test every three years.

- **Age 30-65**
  Get a Pap test and HPV test every five years.

- **After age 65**
  MD Anderson does not recommend screening for most women after age 65. Talk to your doctor about screening recommendations.

*HPV – human papillomavirus*
Almost all cervical cancers are caused by the HPV virus.

Risk factors

- HPV
- Weakened immune system from medications
- HIV infection
- History of severe cervical dysplasia, a pre-cancerous condition
- Smoking

Warning signs

- Excessive vaginal discharge
- Bleeding after intercourse
- Abnormal bleeding between periods

Talk to your doctor if you notice anything unusual or if you have one or more risk factors for cervical cancer.

Our cancer prevention specialists are experts in cancer risk reduction and early detection.

**Appointments available**

713-745-8040