



## Jackson County Department of Public Health

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### OVER 90 PERCENT OF CERVICAL CANCER CAN BE PREVENTED

During Cervical Health Awareness Month, the Jackson County Department of Public Health (JCDPH) reminds the community that cervical cancer is up to 93 percent preventable with recommended human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination and regular, routine screening tests, and follow up. It is also highly curable when found and treated early.

“It is important to know that the HPV vaccination prevents new infections but does not treat existing infections or diseases,” said Nursing Director Gretta Phillips. “That’s why getting the HPV vaccine early is best—before any exposure to HPV.”

The HPV vaccine, which consists of a three dose series, is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the following:

- For preteens during routine vaccination at age 11 or 12 years,
- For everyone through age 26 if not already vaccinated, or
- For adults age 27 through 45 if recommended by their provider.

According to the CDC, long-lasting infection with certain types of HPV is the main cause for cervical cancer. HPV is passed from person-to-person through sexual contact. It is important to know that, while at least half of sexually active people will have HPV at some point in their lives, few women will get cervical cancer.

Men and women can both take an active role in preventing the spread of HPV and cervical cancer. Both can get screened regularly, get vaccinated for HPV, use a condom during sex, as well as limit their sexual partners to prevent the spread of the virus.

To assist with the cost of screenings and treatment, JCDPH offers the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program to women that qualify. To learn more about this program, call 828-587-8289.

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