Cervical Cancer Screening

• Cervical cancer screening (testing) should begin at age 21.
  • Women under age 21 should *not* be tested.

• Women between ages 21 and 29
  • Pap test every 3 years.
  • Now there is also a test called the HPV test.
  • HPV testing should *not* be used in this age group unless it is needed after an abnormal Pap test result.

• Women between the ages of 30 and 65
  • Pap test plus an HPV test (called “co-testing”) every 5 years.
  • This is the preferred approach, but it is also OK to have a Pap test alone every 3 years.

• Women over age 65 who have had regular cervical cancer testing with normal results should *not* be tested for cervical cancer.
  • Once testing is stopped, it should not be started again.
  • Women with a history of a serious cervical pre-cancer should continue to be tested for at least 20 years after that diagnosis, even if testing continues past age 65.

• A woman who has had her uterus removed (and also her cervix) for reasons not related to cervical cancer and who has no history of cervical cancer or serious pre-cancer.
  • Should *not* be tested.

• A woman who has been vaccinated against HPV should still follow the screening recommendations for her age group.

Some women – because of their health history – may need to have a different screening schedule for cervical cancer.