

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.