

OPERATION WIPE OUT

*cervical
cancer*
ALABAMA

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ELIMINATE CERVICAL CANCER IN ALABAMA?

It takes **3 steps**:

1



HPV VACCINE

Give the HPV
vaccination to
children and
young adults
aged 9-26

2



SCREENING

Get regular
HPV/Pap test to
screen for
cervical cancer
beginning at
age 21

3



FOLLOW-UP/ TREATMENT

If your HPV/Pap
test is abnormal,
go back to your
doctor/health
care provider for
a follow-up
appointment

PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR LOVED ONES AND YOUR
COMMUNITY FROM A PREVENTABLE CANCER

OPERATION WIPE OUT is a statewide effort to
eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem
in Alabama by 2033. We can achieve this goal if every
Alabamian plays a role in this effort.

Get Informed!

Spread the information!

Let Others Know!



Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer affects the cervix, which is part of the female organs.

Everyone with a cervix is at risk of developing cervical cancer, even if they don't have a family history of cancer.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

HPV is the main cause of cervical cancer.

Almost everyone who has had any type of sexual activity will get infected with HPV at some point in their lives.



For most people the virus goes away on its own. However, if the infection by this virus persists over time, it can turn into pre-cancer and cancer.

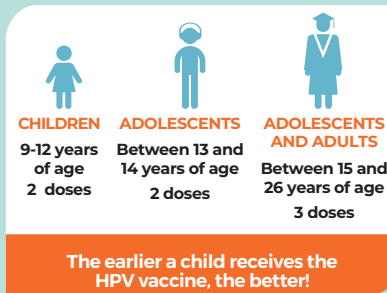
Various types of HPV can also cause vaginal and vulvar cancer in women, penile cancer in men, and anal and oropharyngeal cancer in men and women

Cervical Cancer Elimination Can Be Achieved

Cervical cancer is different from many other cancers in that it can be wiped out through three action steps: HPV Vaccination, Cervical Cancer Screening, and Follow-Up/Treatment.

HPV Vaccine

The vaccine is recommended for children, adolescents, and young adults aged **9-26**. Adults aged **27-45** can also receive the HPV vaccine based on discussion with their health care provider.



The vaccine has gone through many years of research, and it has shown to be **safe and effective** in preventing targeted HPV types.

The **cost** of HPV vaccine is covered by most health insurance plans or the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program among children/adolescents **18** years of age or younger.

In order to make an informed decision on whether to get your children and/or yourself vaccinated against HPV, talk to your health care provider and/or refer to credible websites such as the **CDC**, **American Cancer Society**, and **National Cancer Institute**.

Cervical Cancer Screening

Everyone who has a cervix and is between the ages of **21-65** should get screened regularly.

Screenings are covered by most insurance plans. Individuals who do not have health insurance coverage and meet the income guidelines can get screened through the **Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program** at no cost. This program covers screening and follow-up tests, if needed.



Follow-Up and Treatment

If the cervical cancer screening results are abnormal be sure to go back to your health care provider.

Follow-up tests can detect and treat changes **BEFORE** cancer develops.



For more information, visit: www.operationwipeout.org or email: info@operationwipeout.org

