

WIDE
OUT

***cervical
cancer***

ALABAMA

ROADMAP for today

What is cervical cancer and who is at risk?

1

What causes cervical cancer and How can we PREVENT cervical cancer?

3

Who should get screened for cervical cancer? Why should we follow-up?

5

2

Cervical cancer is closer to home than we think.

4

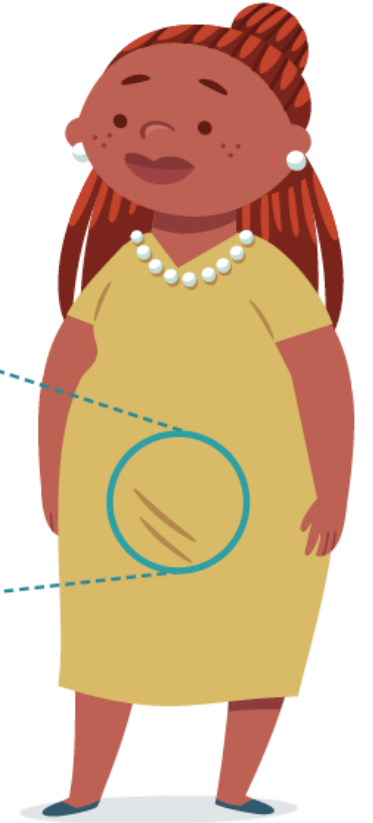
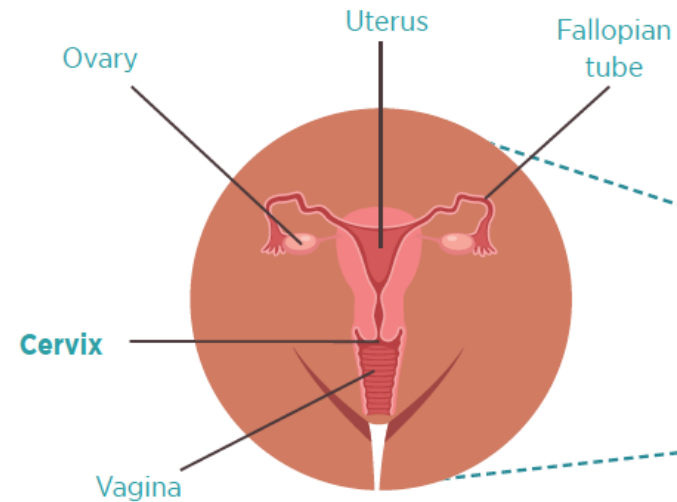
Who should get the HPV vaccine?

6

How can you help eliminate cervical cancer in Alabama?

What is cervical cancer?

- Cervical cancer happens when abnormal cells begin to grow in the cervix.
- It is a very slow cancer that takes years to develop.
- Most of the time, women with cervical cancer do not have any symptoms.



What is main cause of cervical cancer?



HPV

91%

of cervical cancers are associated with **HPV** human papilloma virus, a sexually transmitted infection



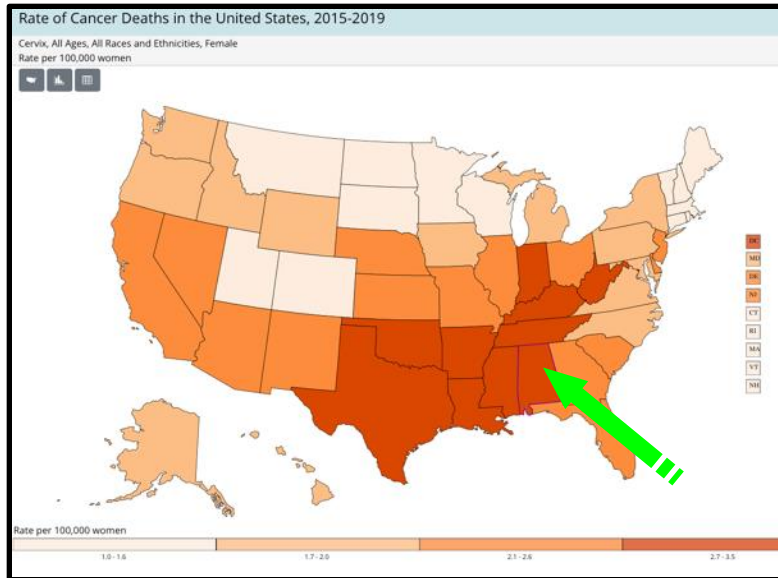
HPV is extremely common, nearly all sexually active individuals will get the virus at some point in their lives

90%

of HPV infection will clear up on its own. The infection will persist only in a small number of women, putting them at risk for HPV-related cancers.

Unlike a lot of other cancers, cervical cancer does not have anything to do with family history

The BAD news



Alabama has **one of the highest death rates** from cervical cancer in the United States.

The GOOD news



Cervical cancer can be **ELIMINATED**

Three Simple Steps ...



1. VACCINATE

Vaccinate your children against HPV infection. The HPV vaccine is for boys and girls.



2. SCREEN

Get regular screening with the HPV/Pap test for cervical cancer beginning at age 21.



3. FOLLOW-UP/TREATMENT

Follow-up with your health care provider if your HPV/Pap test is abnormal and/or you are asked to come back to the clinic for additional tests.

HPV Vaccination



Step 1: HPV Vaccination (Age 9-26)

- 80 million adults currently infected with HPV
- 80% chance of infection in your lifetime
- More common than the common cold
- HPV Vaccination is [safe.](#)
- HPV Vaccination [works.](#)
- HPV Vaccination [lasts.](#)



HPV Vaccination Facts

Frequent questions asked by parents about the HPV vaccine

FULL DOSE

The HPV vaccine offers the best protection to girls and boys who complete all the recommended HPV vaccination doses.

EFFECTIVE

Studies have shown that this vaccine provides almost 100% protection against the type of HPV it targets.

SAFE

The HPV vaccine went through years of extensive safety testing before licensed by the FDA.

SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects are the ones common to most injectable vaccines: sore arm or itching at the site of injection, headache, high temperature, shivery, feeling sick (nausea).

NO COST

It is covered by most health insurance plans. The Vaccines for Children (VCF) program provides vaccines for children 18 years of age & younger who are eligible.

HPV Vaccination: Age & Dose



9-12 YEARS OF AGE

Boys and girls between the ages of 9-12 years should get the HPV vaccine

TWO DOSES

6-12 months apart



13-14 YEARS OF AGE

You can catch up ...

TWO DOSES

6-12 months apart



15-26 YEARS OF AGE

Because this is a little later, teenagers will need 3 doses

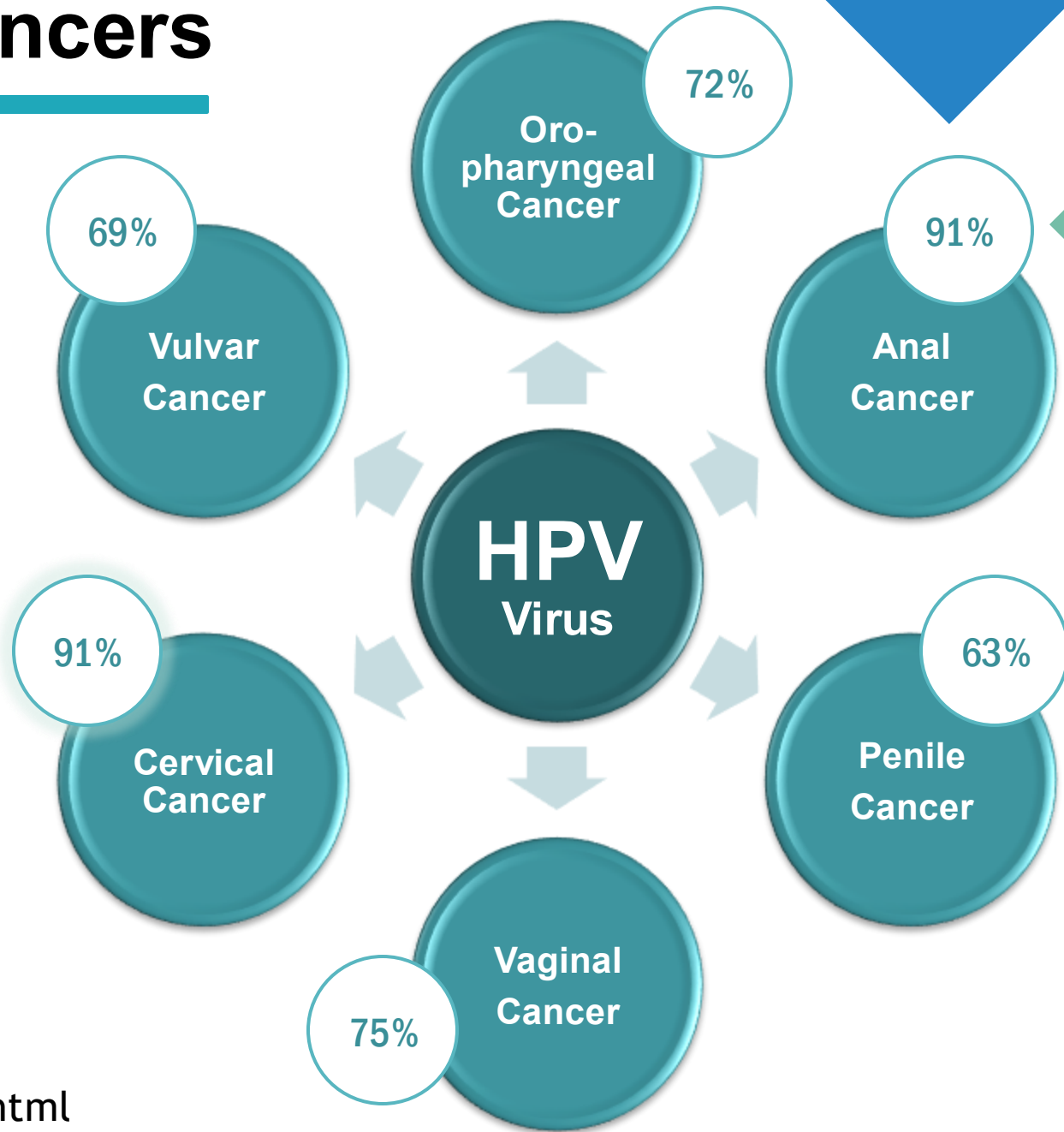
THREE DOSES

2nd dose 1-2 months after 1st, and
3rd dose 6 months after the 1st dose.

HPV vaccination is approved by the FDA for adults up to age 45 based on health care provider recommendation.

HPV-Associated Cancers

The HPV vaccine protects against ALL 6 of these cancers!



Barriers to HPV Vaccination among Parents

- Lack of information
- Safety concerns/concerns about side effects
- Lack of provider recommendation
- Lack of trust in the health care system
- Not needed or necessary



Cervical Cancer Screening



Step 2: Screening

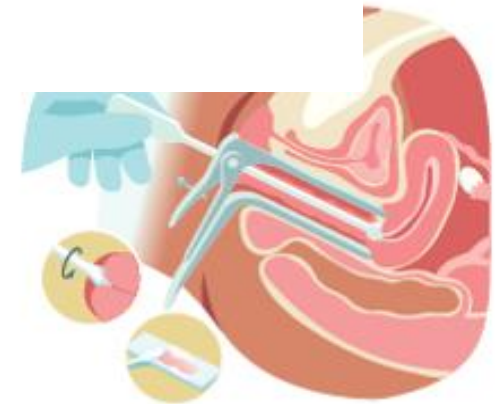
- Get Screened regularly beginning age 21
- Screening may be every 3-5 years
- Ask your doctor about the HPV/Pap Co-test
 - Pap test: 60% effective
 - Co-test (Pap & HPV test): 98-99% effective

The purpose of cervical cancer screening is to detect changes BEFORE it turns into cancer and thus PREVENTING the disease.

What is Screening?

- **What Does the Doctor Do During a Screening?**
 - A tiny brush is introduced through the vagina to get a sample
 - The sample is examined in a laboratory to see if there is HPV, pre-cancer, or cancer cells
 - If there is a finding, your doctor may recommend further follow-up
- **What is the Difference Between the HPV test, Pap Test and Co-testing?**
 - **HPV test:** looks for HPV
 - **Pap test:** looks for changes in the cells (pre-cancer/cancer)
 - **Co-testing:** looks for HPV & changes in the cells (both)

Ask you health care provider what test he/she is performing.



Barriers to Screening

- Limited knowledge that HPV causes cervical cancer
- Lack of awareness that cervical cancer can be prevented
- Lack of perceived risk
- Fear of results
- Competing priorities
- Not knowing where to go
- Lack of awareness of no-cost screening at the local department
- Concerns about lack of confidentiality (small towns)
- Think it is too expensive

Everyone can get screened!

Most health insurance plans cover cervical cancer screening and it not part of your deductible



The Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (ABCCEDP) provides FREE breast and cervical cancer screening and follow-up for low-income and uninsured women

For more information about free screenings, contact ABCCEDP toll-free at 1-877-22-3324 or contact your local county health department.

Cervical Cancer Follow-up/ Treatment



Step 3: Follow-up/Treatment

- If abnormal test results, go back to the doctor
- Pre-cancer can be removed
- Cancer can be removed
- Early detection can save your life

Understanding the Cervical Cancer Screening Results

- Positive results do not mean the woman has cancer. Remember that screening can detect changes BEFORE it turns into cancer!
- It is very important that women follow up and follow the provider's recommendations, which can be something as simple just watching the changes over time.

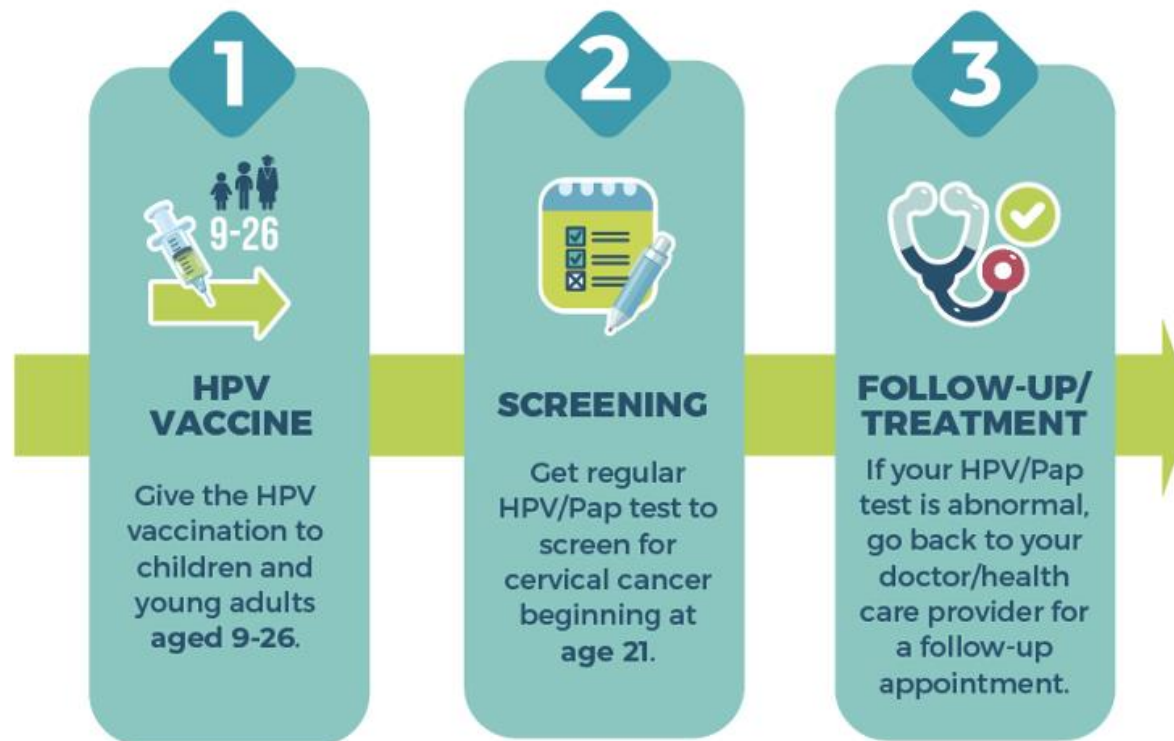


Barriers to Follow-Up/Treatment

- Only 41% adhere to appointment and get follow/up treatment
- Believe cancer is a death sentence
- Didn't realize the purpose of screening or the importance of follow-up/treatment

What is OPERATION WIPE OUT?

Statewide effort to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem



Alabama continues to be the 1st and only State in the nation to announce such a plan

EVERYONE can play a role...

- **Get the HPV vaccine** for your children and encourage others to do the same
- **Get screened regularly** for cervical cancer
- **Follow-up** if your screening shows any changes
- **Spread the word**



Let's make the dream of eliminating cervical cancer a reality!

For More Information

WEBSITE

www.operationwipeout.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook (@Operation WIPE OUT):
<https://www.facebook.com/operationwipeout>
- Instagram (@operationwipeoutal):
<https://www.instagram.com/operationwipeoutal/>
- X (@OpWipeOutAL):
<https://x.com/OpWipeOutAL>

