

WHAT IS CERVICAL CANCER?

Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that develops in the cells of the cervix. Various strains of a sexually transmitted infection, known as the human papillomavirus (HPV), play a role in causing most cases of cervical cancer.

If exposed to HPV, a woman's immune system may not be able to fight off the infection. The virus can go undetected for year's contributing to the process that causes the cells in the cervix to become cancerous.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

The type of HPV that can cause genital warts are not the same as the types that can cause cancer. Cervical cancer can take years, even decades to develop after a person gets HPV. It is important for women to watch out for changes in their bodies such as:

- Abnormal menstrual flow between periods or menopause
- Pelvic pain or discomfort
- Vaginal odor or discharge

These symptoms can also be caused by cancer or by other health issues. It is important to see your healthcare provider if any of these symptoms persist.

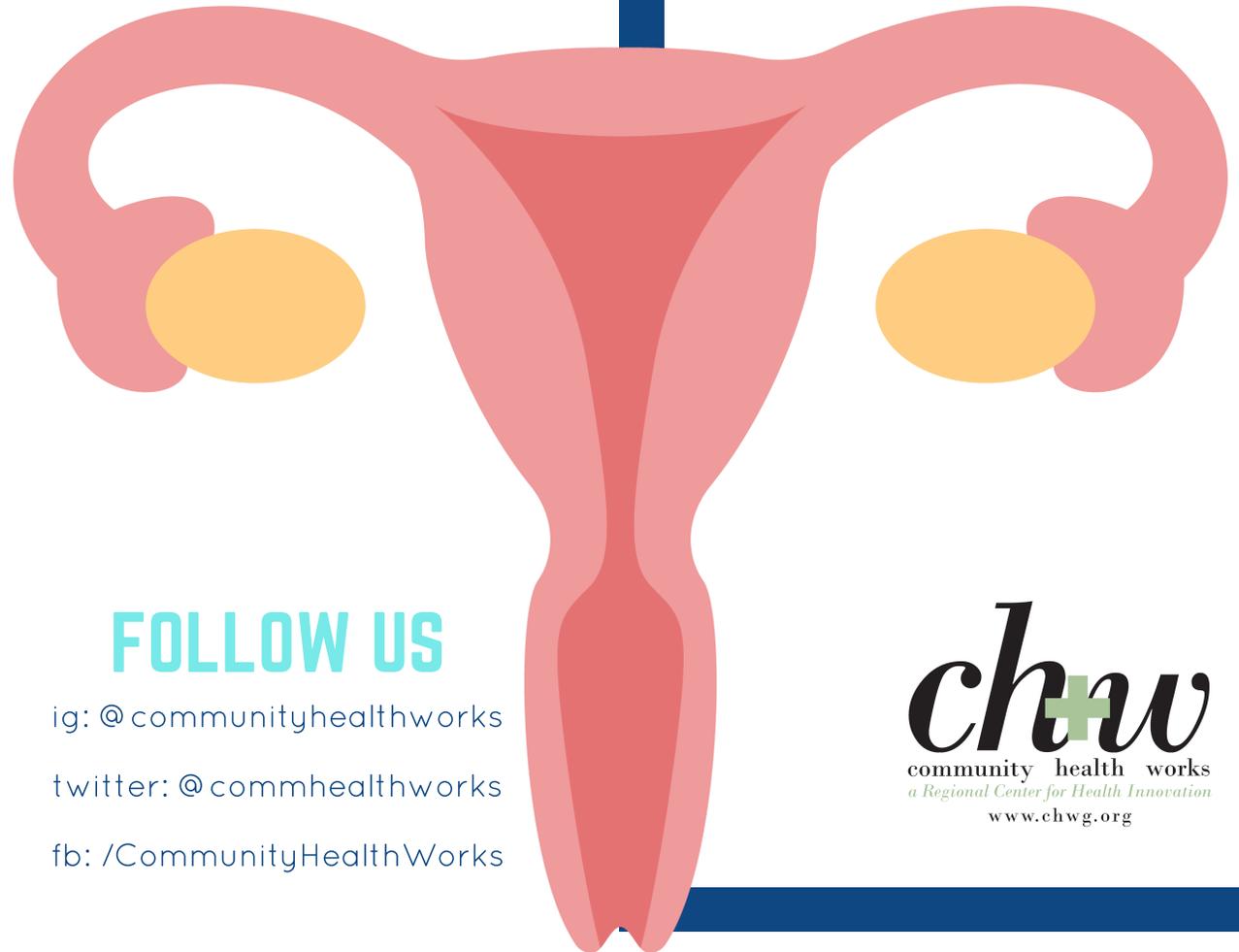
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CERVICAL CANCER

what women need to know...



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RISK FACTORS

Chances of developing cervical cancer are greater if a woman:

- Has a high number of sexual partners.
- Has been exposed to other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV/AIDS.
- Has a weakened immune system due to other health conditions or a type of HPV.
- Is a tobacco user.

**ACCORDING TO THE
AMERICAN CANCER
SOCIETY, MORE THAN
13,000 WOMEN IN THE U.S.
WILL BE DIAGNOSED WITH
CERVICAL CANCER THIS
YEAR.**



**CERVICAL CANCER
IS THE ONLY
GYNECOLOGIC
CANCER THAT CAN
BE PREVENTED BY
REGULAR
SCREENING AND A
PREVENTIVE
VACCINE.**

HOW CAN YOU REDUCE YOUR CHANCES OF DIAGNOSIS?

Get Vaccinated!

- Vaccinating young women and girls before they become sexually active (currently recommended at age 11 & 12) is the greatest prevention of precancer and cancer.

Regular Pap Tests & HPV Testing

- Pap tests detect and monitor precancerous conditions of the cervix.

- Cells are collected from the cervix and tested for infection of any of the human papillomavirus types that could potentially lead to cancer.

For more information on Cervical Cancer Screening for Georgia residents ages 21-64, please visit your local county public health department.