

Pap Test Awareness Week 2016

Fast Facts

Pap Test Awareness Week is October 23rd - 29th, 2016.

This year's theme is

***"Stirrups are not just for cowboys...
A regular Pap test can save your life!"***

- Routine Pap testing recommended every three years. Women should start Pap testing at age 21 and have a Pap test once a year for 3 years in a row. If all results are normal, then Pap testing continues every three years.
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, only three out of five women have had a Pap test in the last 3 years. To reduce your risk you must be screened.
- Pap tests are provided by your family physician or regular health care provider. There are over 90 open pap clinics in the province that will see any woman for a pap test.
- Routine screening can find cell changes early, when the changes are treatable and cancer can be prevented.
- Screening saves lives. In a 2016 national report, Newfoundland and Labrador reports the highest rate of cervical cancer found in Canada. 65% of cancers were found at an early stage when treatment is more effective.
- Young women in Newfoundland and Labrador are reducing their lifetime risk of cervical cancer with the HPV vaccine. In 2014, 94% of girls received two doses of the vaccine.
- Approximately 10% of Pap test results are abnormal. It is important that all women have follow up after an abnormal Pap test.
- From 2013 to 2015, over 95 women in NL were diagnosed with cervical cancer. Approximately 20% of these women were over 65 years of age. Women with abnormal Pap test histories should continue to be screened after age 70.
- In Canada, it is estimated that there will be 1500 new cases and 380 deaths due to cervical cancer annually (CCS 2015).

To learn more about Cervical Cancer Screening or to host an information session with your group or community, please contact the Provincial Cervical Screening Program at 1.866.643.8719.

