

HPV

and Cervical Cancer Prevention



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What is HPV?

- HPV is the most common Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) in America
- HPV stands for the Human Papilloma Virus
- There are many types of HPV, and some of them affect the sexual and reproductive parts of the body

Who has HPV?

- Every year, more than 5 million American men and women become infected with genital HPV

How do I get HPV?

- HPV is spread from contact during oral, vaginal, or anal sex with an infected partner

How do I know if I have HPV?

- Many people with HPV have no symptoms and do not know they have it
- Some forms of HPV cause warts
- The warts are single or multiple firm, flesh-colored bumps that appear in the genital areas of men and women, including the vagina, cervix (the opening of a woman's uterus), vulva (the external part of female genitals), penis, and rectum
- Sometimes the warts appear in clusters that look like tiny pieces of cauliflower
- Warts can be raised or flat, small or large
- HPV may cause you to have an abnormal Pap test, which checks the cells on the cervix
- If a Pap test is not normal, talk to your health care provider

What do I do if I have HPV?

- There are several different types of treatment for genital warts
- A Pap test can identify abnormal cells on the cervix
- Talk to your health care provider to decide on the next step in your care

Does HPV lead to cervical cancer?

- Some types of HPV may cause cancer—usually of the cervix
- Abnormal cells on the cervix can be treated to prevent cancer
- It is important to follow the advice of your health care provider

How do I protect myself from HPV?

- Use latex condoms every time you have sex
- Using condoms is the best protection, but they will not totally protect you because the virus may be in areas of the body the condom does not cover (thighs, groin, etc.)
- You can reduce your risk of getting HPV by limiting your number of sexual partners and using condoms all the time
- Avoid sexual contact when warts can be seen
- Women should have regular Pap tests
- Ask Planned Parenthood or another health care provider about the cervical cancer vaccine

How do I tell my partner I have HPV?

- Choose a good time and place to talk
- Your partner will most likely appreciate your honesty and concern about his/her well-being
- Know your information about HPV so you can answer questions your partner has
- If you need help talking to your partner, ask your health care provider

Where can I get more information?

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF NEW YORK CITY
1-800-230-PLAN www.ppnyc.org

AMERICAN SOCIAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
www.ashastd.org/hpv/hpv_overview.cfm

NATIONAL STD AND AIDS HOTLINE
919-361-8488

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPV.htm

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