



HPV SCREENING

HPV screening for females:

Even if you have had the HPV vaccine, you should have your cervical screening test (smear test) every time it's due. This is because the HPV vaccine doesn't give complete protection against cervical cancer.

HPV screening for males:

There is no HPV screening currently available for males. The HPV vaccine is your best chance at protecting yourself against genital warts and HPV-related cancers.

For more information or for testing information, please call or visit your local community health centre or health care provider.

To contact NITHA:

 (306) 953-5000

 www.nitha.com

Adapted from:

- [HSE 2023](#)
- STD.gov.org/stds/human_papillomavirus_hpv



**NORTHERN INTER-TRIBAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY**

**HUMAN
PAPILLOMAVIRUS
(HPV)**

WWW.NITHA.COM

WHAT IS HPV?

HPV stands for human papillomavirus which is a group of more than 100 viruses. HPV is a very common virus. Most people will have it at some time in their lives.

HPV that are broken down into two types: high risk and low risk. 'High risk' HPV causes 9 out of 10 HPV-related cancers.

HPV infection can cause cancer of the:

- cervix
- vulva (the area surrounding the opening of the vagina)
- vagina
- anus
- oropharynx (the part of the throat at the back of the mouth)
- penis

Other types of HPV can cause genital warts. These are called 'low-risk' types. But there are vaccines that can stop these health problems from happening.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Most HPV types have no symptoms and disappear without doing any harm to human body. However, several virus types cause genital warts, which is a direct sign of carrying a virus. Some types affect feet, hands, and, rarely, throat and mouth. The color of warts may vary from flesh to pink, they can have cauliflower look.

HOW CAN YOU GET HPV?

It is spread by skin-to-skin contact during sexual activity. This includes vaginal, anal or oral sex. HPV can be passed on even when an infected person has no signs or symptoms. It can also be passed through body fluids or mucous membranes.

Anyone who is sexually active can get HPV, even if you have had sex with only one person. You can also develop symptoms years after you have sex with someone who is infected. This makes it hard to know when you first became infected. If the infection persists, it can cause changes in the body's cells that can lead to cancer.



HOW IS HPV PREVENTED?

You can do several things to lower your chances of getting HPV.

- **Get vaccinated.** The HPV vaccine is safe and effective. It can protect against diseases (including cancers) caused by HPV when given in the recommended age groups.
- If you are sexually active, particularly with a new sexual partner and partners with high risk behavior, use condoms every time you have sex. This can lower your chances of getting HPV. But HPV can infect areas the condom does not cover. So, condoms may not fully protect against getting HPV; and
- Get screened for cervical cancer. Routine screening for women aged 21 to 65 years old can prevent cervical cancer.

