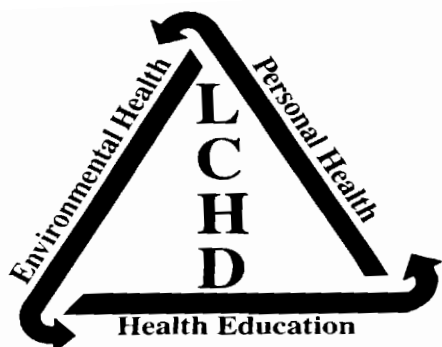


MEDIA RELEASE



Date: January 12, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
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For Immediate Release

“January is Cervical Cancer Month”

OTTAWA, IL—In recognition of Cervical Cancer Awareness Month the LaSalle County Health Department is urging women over the age of 21 to be screened for cervical cancer. The goal is to eradicate cervical cancer in Illinois by women taking charge and getting screened. During 2021 an estimated 13,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with cervical cancer, according to the American Cancer Society (ACS). We want to remind people that even though we are dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is extremely important that women keep up with their annual screenings. Cervical cancer, when caught early, is nearly 100 percent curable.

The ACS reports that between 60 and 80 percent of American women with newly diagnosed invasive cervical cancer have not had a Pap Smear in the last five years and /or may have never had one. Cervical Cancer is one of the most common types of cancer worldwide and one of the most preventable and treatable when detected early. In addition to increasing awareness of cervical cancer there are some preventative steps that women can take. Studies have shown, regular exercise, a healthy diet, routine screenings and getting the cervical cancer vaccine to help prevent Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), decreases the risk for cervical cancer. Licensed HPV vaccines for females and males are available. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends 11 or 12 year old girls and boys begin the HPV vaccine series. (Vaccination can be started at age 9.) The vaccination series must be completed by age 45. HPV vaccination is offered at LaSalle County Health Department immunization clinics which are held monthly. Those who are interested in scheduling an appointment or want more information can call the Health Department.

The LaSalle County Health Department also has a program available which can pay for Pap Smear tests for LaSalle or Grundy County women, ages 21-64 who have no insurance or who have high deductibles regardless of income. We invite and encourage anyone who needs more information on cervical cancer and the importance of Pap Smear tests, the IBCCP program, or the cervical cancer vaccines to contact the Health Department at 1-815-433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org