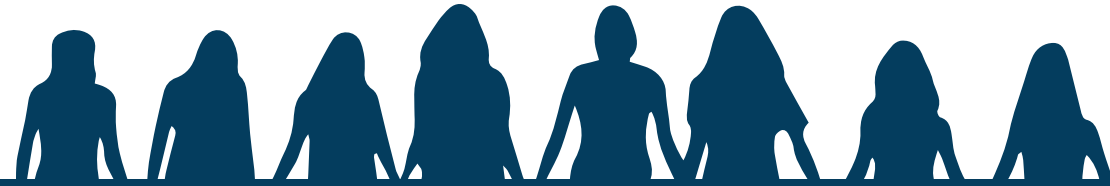




MINISTRY OF
**HEALTH &
WELLNESS**



Cervical Cancer

TALKING POINTS



April is Cervical Cancer Awareness month

Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among Jamaican women

Cervical cancer mainly affects women in their productive years of life, between the ages of 30 & 50 years

Cervical Cancer is Preventable

Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that occurs when cells change in a woman's cervix and become malignant. The cervix is located in the lower part of the womb

Most cases of cervical cancer are caused by infection with human papillomavirus (HPV)-which is preventable with a vaccine.

Many persons who have sex get HPV at some point in their lives.

HPV is usually harmless and goes away by itself, but some types can lead to cancer or genital warts



Cervical cancer can affect the deeper tissues of the cervix and unfortunately can also metastasize to the lungs, vagina, and the rectum

It is a slow forming disease which can take an average of eleven years to present itself

Cervical Cancer Symptoms

You might not notice symptoms of cervical cancer until it's far along. They may include:

- Pain when you have sex
- Unusual vaginal bleeding, such as after sex, between periods, after menopause, or after a pelvic exam
- Unusual vaginal discharge

The MOHW is embarking on a series of public education activities that will highlight: risk factors, debunk myths, discuss the role of the HPV Vaccine in accordance with the recommended age guidelines of 9-14 years of age and reiterate that protection coupled with screening could eliminate cervical cancer here in Jamaica.



It is important for women to do their regular Pap Smears and HPV tests as well as for girls between the ages of 9-14 years be given the vaccine

The Ministry's Non-Communicable Disease & Injury Prevention Unit recognises that they are grappling with several myths: Cervical Cancer cannot be cured, only women who have been promiscuous will contract the HPV that causes Cervical Cancer, older women are not susceptible to the disease.

Despite the effectiveness and availability of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, HPV remains the most common sexually transmitted infection availability of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine

Women between the ages of 30-50 years are most likely to get Cervical Cancer especially those who haven't been getting regular screenings

MOHW's Cervical Cancer Awareness Public Education Activities:

A Facebook Live discussion hosted by Minister Cuthbert Flynn with her special guest Dr. Michael Abrahams, set for Wed. April 14, 7:30 pm.



Media Interviews throughout the month of April to place the beam on Screening as life-saving, and conversations around the efficacy of the teen vaccine

Extensive social media posts on the risk factors.

The medical fraternity has been co-opted to support the Ministry's effort to inform and educate

Doctors are expected to ensure that every female patient who visits especially during April, is encouraged to do a Pap Smear

Doctors will continue initiating HPV vaccination conversations with parents during office encounters, to educate about HPV disease and the value of vaccinating for its prevention.

The hope is to eliminate Cervical Cancer from Jamaica.



THANK YOU