

## PREVENTION AND SCREENING:

Three screening tests can help to detect cervical cancer before it develops:

- **Pap smear:** Detects pre-cancerous cell changes on the cervix.
- **HPV test:** Identifies the virus causing pre-cancerous changes.
- **VIA (Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid):** Uses acetic acid (distilled vinegar) to identify abnormal cervix changes .

## WHERE CAN YOU GET SCREENED:

You can get screened at:

- A General Practitioner
- Hospital or Health Centre
- A specialized doctor (like a Gynaecologist)
- Family planning clinics or the Jamaica Cancer Society.

**HELP US ELIMINATE  
CERVICAL CANCER.  
GET SCREENED.**

## WHAT CAN YOU DO:

- Make regular appointments for your screening tests for cervical cancer
- Avoid smoking
- Practice safe sex
- Get the HPV Vaccine
- Stay informed by understanding your risks and take preventive measures.

**GET SCREENED TODAY.  
IT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.**



[www.ncdip.moh.gov.jm](http://www.ncdip.moh.gov.jm)

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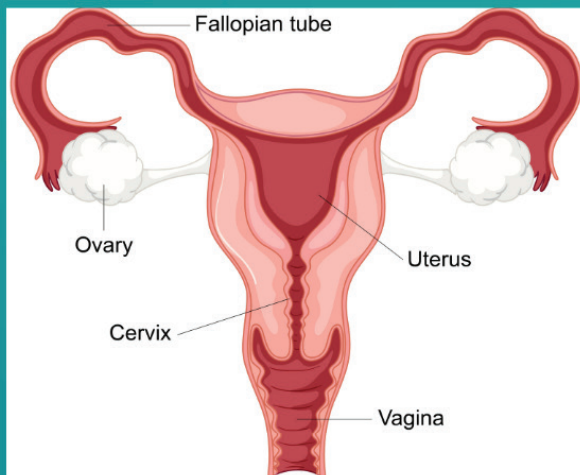
**FREQUENTLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS ABOUT**

**CERVICAL  
CANCER**

## WHAT IS CERVICAL CANCER?

Cervical cancer is a disease in which cells in the lining of the cervix grow out of control.

The cervix connects the vagina (birth canal) to the upper part of the uterus. The uterus (or womb) is where a baby grows during pregnancy.



## WHAT CAUSES CERVICAL CANCER?

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the primary cause, often transmitted through sexual contact. HPV can lead to changes in cervix cells, progressing from pre-cancerous conditions to cancer if not identified early.



## WHO IS AT RISK?

All women are at risk for cervical cancer, particularly those over 30.

## WHAT PUTS ME AT GREATER RISK?

In addition to having HPV, several factors may affect your risk of developing cervical cancer including:

- smoking
- giving birth to three or more children
- having multiple sex partners
- having HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) or any other condition which makes it hard for the body to fight off infections

## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CERVICAL CANCER?

While early stages may not show symptoms, advanced cases can cause abnormal bleeding, spotting between periods, or unusual vaginal discharge.

If you have any of these signs, see your health care provider.

