

MEDIA RELEASE

☒ **Information** ☐ **Advisory** ☐ **Warning** ☐ **Update**

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St. Clair County Health Department Encourages HPV Vaccine during Cervical Health Month

St. Clair County Health Department joins the nation in celebrating Cervical Health Month. According to the National Cervical Cancer Coalition, nearly 13,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year. Cervical cancer can be prevented with regular pap smears and the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

In general, HPV is thought to be responsible for more than 90% of anal and cervical cancers, about 70% of vaginal and vulvar cancers, and more than 60% of penile cancers (CDC, 2019). Michigan had an estimated 360 new cases of cervical cancer and 120 deaths in 2019.

HPV can be prevented. Parents can make sure that pre-teens, both boys and girls, receive the vaccine by age 12. The vaccine is given in two doses and can be given as early as age 9. If the vaccine series is started after a child turns 15, three shots are required. The vaccine can be given up to age 26 for any man or woman who did not get it as a pre-teen.

St. Clair County Health Department and Teen Health offer the HPV vaccine. Those ages 10-21 can call Teen Health for an appointment (810) 987-1311. Men and women over the age of 21 may call the Main Office for an appointment (810) 987-5300.

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