



## **Screening, Prevention, and Vaccination for Cervical Health Awareness Month**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOCKSVILLE, N.C.— January is Cervical Health Awareness Month, dedicated to promoting awareness and healthy habits to prevent cervical cancer. Each year more than 12,000 Americans are diagnosed with cervical cancer and more than 4,000 of those women die from the condition. Many cervical cancer deaths could be prevented by a combination of routine Pap tests and appropriate follow-up of abnormal screening results.

### **Risk factors for cervical cancer include:**

- An infection with human papillomavirus (HPV), a common sexually transmitted infection
- Those who smoke are twice as likely as non-smokers to develop cervical cancer.
- HIV or Chlamydia infection

To start the year right, we encourage all women to contact their health care provider to verify receiving the HPV vaccine, as well as scheduling routine Pap tests to check and prevent cervical cancer. If you are age 21 or older, talk to your health care provider about scheduling a cervical cancer screening today. If you are age 26 or younger, make sure that you have received the HPV vaccine and encourage those around you to get vaccinated. Early detection is your best protection. It is important to remember that cervical cancer is a preventable disease.

Davie County Division of Public Health offers free cervical cancer screenings, education and referral services to eligible women through the N.C Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCCP). In 2019 alone, Davie County Division of Public BCCCCP screened 112 women for breast and cervical cancer. To learn more about the N.C BCCCCP, visit [bcccp.ncdhhs.gov](http://bcccp.ncdhhs.gov) or call (336) 753-6750.