

## WHAT CAUSES CERVICAL CANCER?



Most cervical cancers are caused by a common virus called HPV which is easily spread through intimate contact, including oral, vaginal and anal sex. Almost all people will get HPV at some point in their lives - often without knowing it. This is because most HPV infections go away naturally, and can take decades to progress



**CERVIXCHECK**  
cervical cancer screening at home



## IF I HAVE HPV, WILL I GET CERVICAL CANCER?



There are more than 100 types of HPV -some types high risk for cervical cancer, while others low risk. Usually, the body's immune system clears the virus by itself within 2 years. However, for some individuals HPV does not clear from the body and over time, it can cause abnormal cell changes in the cervix that you cannot see or feel. These abnormal cells can develop into cervical cancer if they are not found and treated early enough.



**AT HOME  
HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS  
(HPV) - BASED CERVIX  
SCREENING**

## GET IN TOUCH!

1-888-300-3088 ext 5635  
cervixcheck@bccancer.bc.ca

## Frequently Asked Questions



**MÉTIS NATION**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA



## IS SELF-COLLECTION SAFE? WILL IT HURT?



At home HPV-based cervix screening is very safe and it will not hurt to perform. Using the swab should feel similar to using a small tampon.

## WHY CAN'T INDIVIDUALS YOUNGER THAN 25 YEARS USE CERVIXCHECK?



Individuals younger than 25 years old are more likely to have an HPV infection that will resolve naturally without intervention. To prevent unnecessary and over treatment, it is not recommended for individuals younger than 25 years old.

## DOES THE NUMBER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS A PERSON HAS INCREASE THEIR RISK OF HAVING HPV?



Having intimate sexual contact with more people may increase your risk of being exposed to more types of HPV, but even if you have had sexual contact with one or a few people, you may still be exposed to HPV.



## WHAT IS HPV-BASED CERVIX SCREENING?

Through CervixCheck, you will collect your sample yourself using a vaginal swab. With this approach, you can be screened anywhere the self-collection package is sent. This offers the opportunity to have screening done in private without having to see a health care provider for a pelvic exam.

## WHAT IS AT HOME HPV-BASED CERVIX SCREENING?

CervixCheck offers an extensively researched method for cervical cancer screening. Through CervixCheck, you will collect your sample yourself using a vaginal swab, a safe and easy process called “self-collection” or “self-sampling”. With this approach, you can be screened anywhere the self-collection package is sent. This offers the opportunity to have screening done in private without having to see a health care provider for a pelvic exam. This sample then undergoes HPV testing when it’s received at the lab.

