

### Test Your Knowledge on CERVICAL HEALTH

This is an opportunity for you to find out how much you know about cancer of the cervix and to learn more about how to prevent it. Please respond to the following statements by placing a "✓" in the appropriate box (true or false).

	True	False
1. Cancer of the cervix is preventable.		
2. One risk factor for cervical cancer is becoming sexually active at a young age.		
3. Using condoms will prevent you from being exposed to the HPV virus, which causes most cervical cancer.		
4. The risk for cervical cancer increases if a woman has had several sexual partners.		
5. A Pap test does not check for other types of cancer such as uterine and ovarian.		
6. Women don't need to have the Pap test unless the doctor orders it.		
7. Women should start having Pap tests as soon as they are sexually active.		
8. A Pap test is not needed after menopause.		
9. Women should continue having Pap tests until they are 70 years old.		
10. An abnormal result on your Pap test means you have cancer of the cervix.		

Adapted from: Ontario Cervical Screening Program

For more information, or to speak with a Public Health Nurse, please contact  
York Region [Health Connection](#) at 1 800-361-5653

## ANSWERS (Test Your Knowledge on Cervical Health)

### 1. True

The Pap test can find abnormal cells in the cervix before they become cancerous. Early treatment will prevent cervical cancer from developing.

### 2. True

Cervical cells in young females are immature and more likely to become abnormal. By becoming sexually active at a young age, you are increasing the amount of time these cells are exposed to Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), at a time when they are most vulnerable to change.

### 3. False

The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) causes genital warts and can cause cervical cancer. HPV is so small it can go through a condom. Genital warts are spread by sexual contact, not just by sexual intercourse.

### 4. True

Having several sexual partners throughout your lifetime increases your risk for cervical cancer. Your risk also increases when your partner has had several partners as you have a greater chance of being in contact with HPV (Human Papilloma Virus).

### 5. True

A Pap test is a screening test detecting early cell changes in the cervix. These cells are in the pre-cancerous state. The Pap test does not test cells from the uterus, ovaries or other organs.

### 6. False

All women who are sexually active need regular Pap tests. Take responsibility for your own health and ask your doctor about the Pap test.

### 7. True

All women who are sexually active need regular Pap tests as they may be exposed to the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) that causes cervical cancer. Even if you are not sexually active right now, you are still at risk.

### 8. False

The Pap test is still needed after menopause to check for abnormal cells in the cervix that may cause cervical cancer. Screening is needed until 70 years of age.

### 9. True

If you have had four normal Pap tests in the past 10 years then the Pap test may be stopped at 70 years of age. Women over 70 years should ask their doctor if they still need regular Pap tests.

### 10. False

The Pap test detects abnormal cells. Further testing will indicate if they are cancerous or pre-cancerous. By treating these abnormal cells early, cervical cancer can be prevented.