



News Release

Department of Health and Wellness

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FULTON PROMOTES CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION *FREE HPV Vaccine Available to Qualified Residents*

Each year, over 400 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer in Georgia. January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and the Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness encourages all women to take control of their health by having annual cervical screenings known as Pap tests and to make healthier lifestyle choices. During the months of January and February, the Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness will offer cervical cancer screenings and **FREE HPV vaccinations** to females who meet screening criteria. All minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

“It is our hope that all women will begin the New Year by taking care of themselves and get screened,” says Dr. Kim Turner, Interim Director of the Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness. “If they do not have health insurance, they should use our Women’s Health services and find out if they qualify to receive the HPV vaccine. Prevention is the key when fighting cancer.”

If detected and treated early, cervical cancer is 90% curable. It is estimated that in Georgia, 120 women die of cervical cancer each year. Symptoms of early stage cervical cancer or pre-cancer are not easily identified and often have no signs or symptoms. Women 21 and older need to have regular Pap tests to monitor cervical health.

The HPV vaccine is the first FDA approved vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer. The human papilloma virus (HPV) is a very common virus that can cause harmful cell changes in a woman’s cervix. These changes may result in the development of cervical cancer. The vaccine has been extensively tested in 9-26 year old females and is recommended for females 11 years of age to 26.

The Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness offers the HPV vaccine to aid in the fight against cervical cancer. The vaccine is given in a series of three doses. All three shots will be **FREE** to those who received their first shot during the months of January and February.

Services will be provided at the following Women’s Health Clinics:

Adamsville Health Center, 3699 Bakers Ferry Road, SW, Atlanta, GA 30330 (404) 699-4215

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Aldredge Health Center, 99 Jess Hill Jr., Dr. Atlanta, 30303, (404) 730-1682

Center Hill Health Center, 3201 Atlanta Industrial Pkwy, SW, Atlanta, GA 30318 (404) 699-6370

Center for Health and Rehabilitation, 265 Boulevard, NE, 3rd Floor, Atlanta, GA 30312 (404) 730-5835

College Park Regional Health Center, 1920 John Wesley Ave., Atlanta, GA 30337 (404) 765-4155

Lakewood Health Center, 1853 Jonesboro Rd., Se, Atlanta, GA 30315 (404) 624-0626

North Fulton Regional Health Center, 3155 Royal Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30022 (404)332-1876

Sandy Springs Health Center, 330 Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30328 (404) 303-6162

Contact the Women's Health Program at the telephone numbers listed above for more information on screenings and free vaccinations. For more information bout the HPV vaccine, log-on to www.cdc.gov/std/HPV.

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