

Cervical Screening saves Lives.

Cervical Cancer Prevention week, which is from 19–25th January 2026, is the perfect time to remind everyone of the importance of screening.

Cervical cancer causes around 890 deaths every year in England¹, with 99.8% of cases linked to high-risk human papillomavirus (HPV)². The NHS has set an ambitious goal to eliminate cervical cancer by 2040, and cervical screening (also known as the smear test) can prevent most cases by detecting changes early.

Key Messages

Cervical cancer mostly affects women and people who have a cervix under the age of 45, but abnormal changes can happen at any age.

Cervical screening is a simple test that can prevent cervical cancer. It checks for HPV and abnormal cell changes before they become cancerous. HPV is transmitted through sexual contact, and while the HPV vaccine helps reduce risk, screening remains essential.

Screening is free and available through GP practices and sexual health clinics. Self-sampling options are being introduced for those who find attending appointments difficult.

HPV vaccine is recommended for children aged 12 to 13 years old and people at higher risk from HPV so If you or someone you know has missed the vaccine at school, now's the perfect time to book an appointment with your GP or on the NHS App.

HPV vaccination catch-up campaign is running till 31st March 2026, it's not too late to get protected.

Further information can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/hpv-vaccine/>

Early detection = prevention.

Who Should Be Screened?

Anyone with a cervix, including women, trans men, and non-binary people, who are aged 25–64, as most cervical cancers develop between these ages, will be invited every 5 years.

¹ [Cervical cancer mortality statistics | Cancer Research UK](#)

² [NHS England » NHS sets ambition to eliminate cervical cancer by 2040](#)

Symptoms of cervical cancer can include unusual bleeding, changes in discharge, pain during sex, or pelvic pain. Screening detects issues before symptoms appear.

For more information, please visit www.nhs.uk/cervicalscreening

Please see link below to a video talking about cervical screening which you may find helpful and whilst it references Pendle PCN, the messaging is great.

[Pendle Cervical Screening Urdu and English subtitles on Vimeo](#)

Book your cervical screening appointment today. It's quick, free, and could save your life. If you've received an invitation, don't delay, your health matters.

If you live in the Lancashire & South Cumbria area, look out for the Living Well Bus where you can access a private and discreet cervical screening without an appointment.

Scan the QR code to see when the Living Well Service is visiting an area near you.



Or visit: www.cwp.nhs.uk/livingwellservice