



Celebrating 50 years of
public health excellence

Media Release

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From: Tazewell County Health Department
Sara Sparkman 309-929-0264

For Immediate Release

JANUARY IS CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Tazewell County Health Department (TCHD) is promoting January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. According to the National Cancer Institute, more than 14,100 women in the United States were estimated to be diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2022. Cervical Cancer is almost always preventable.

To increase awareness of cervical cancer, the Murray Baker Bridge will be illuminated in teal on January 9th at 4:30 pm. The Murray Baker Bridge will be teal from January 9 - 13, 2023.

Almost all cases of cervical cancer are spread by HPV (human papillomavirus), a very common infection that spreads through sexual activity. About 79 million Americans currently have HPV, but many people with HPV don't know they are infected. The good news is the HPV vaccine (shot) can prevent HPV and cervical cancer can often be prevented with regular screening tests and follow-up care.

"Prevention and early detection are very important to preventing cervical cancer. TCHD offers screenings for cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine to youth to reduce the number of women impacted by cervical cancer," states Kim Gudzinskas, TCHD Community Health Supervisor.

TCHD offers free cervical screening for uninsured and underinsured women, ages 21-64, living in Marshall, Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford county. TCHD offers the HPV vaccine and encourages parents to protect pre-teens with the HPV vaccine at age 11 or 12. Teens and young adults should receive the HPV vaccine if they didn't get it as pre-teens. Women up to age 26 and men up to age 21 can receive the vaccine. If you or someone in your family needs to receive the HPV vaccine, please call 309-929-0294 to schedule an appointment.

Heartland Health Services and TCHD are partnering to host a Women's Wellness Fair on January 16, 2023 at the River Plex, 600 Northwest Water Street, Peoria. Resources and healthcare providers targeting women's health and wellness will be available.

For more information on public health issues, visit <http://www.tazewellhealth.org>

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