FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: January 20, 2015 END DATE: January 31, 2015

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RE: Cervical Health Awareness Month

The Genesee County Health Department reminds you that January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. HPV, Human Papilloma Virus, causes the majority of cervical cancer cases. Currently, about 20 million Americans have HPV, the most common sexually transmitted disease. About 12,000 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer each year and of these, about 4,000 will die. According to the CDC, 93% of cervical cancer cases could be prevented by a cervical cancer screening or by receiving the HPV vaccination. It has been estimated that roughly 8 million women are not being screened for cervical cancer. More than half of new cases of cervical cancer occur among these women.

The Genesee County Health Department’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program provides free mammograms, clinical breast exams, pap smears and pelvic exams for women ages 40-64 who qualify by income and insurance level. Our staff can assist women in obtaining services and follow-up care. For more information contact us at 810-237-4545. Our Family Planning Program can also assist women in scheduling a pap smear. Appointments can be made by calling 810-237-4538.
Our Immunizations Department can assist with obtaining the HPV vaccination. This vaccination is recommended for women under the age of 27. Parents are encouraged to have their pre-teens vaccinated between 11-12 years of age. It is recommended that men under the age of 22 also be vaccinated.

The cervical cancer rate has gone down 50% in the last 30 years due to the increase of screening. If detected early, cervical cancer can be treated. Take control of your health and make sure you are screened. For more information visit our website at www.gchd.us. Our motto is “Better Life through Better Health.”