



Cervical Cancer Awareness Proclamation



Information may be used for any West Virginia city, town, county, or organization for cervical cancer awareness proclamation.

Whereas, in West Virginia between 2017-2021, about 462 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer, while about 161 women died from the disease; and

Whereas, West Virginia ranks within the top ten in both incidence and mortality when compared to other states; and

Whereas, the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) provides recommendations for women who are at average risk, aged 21-30 years old to have a Pap smear test every three years and those aged 30-65 years old to have a Pap test every 3 years or HPV test every 5 years, or contesting of both every five years; and

Whereas, screening and early detection for cervical cancer is an effective way to detect disease early, allowing for early diagnosis and treatment, which improves outcomes and chance of survival; and

Whereas, screening guidelines for cervical cancer vary, women are encouraged to talk with their healthcare provider about risk factors and the most appropriate screening schedule; and

Whereas, the majority of cervical cancers are related to HPV infection; and

Whereas, HPV vaccination can prevent more than 90% of HPV related cancers; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends routine HPV vaccination at 11 or 12 years and can be started at age 9; and

Whereas, the best method to reduce deaths due to cervical cancer is through early detection of the disease and HPV vaccination; and

Whereas, screening and early detection of cervical cancer are vital to the health and well-being of West Virginia women; and

Whereas, the West Virginia Department of Health, Bureau for Public Health, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program works to raise awareness of the importance of early detection and resources available for West Virginia women.