



ABOUT HPV

WHAT IS HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the name of a common virus. It infects the skin and any moist membrane (mucosa). This includes the:

cervix

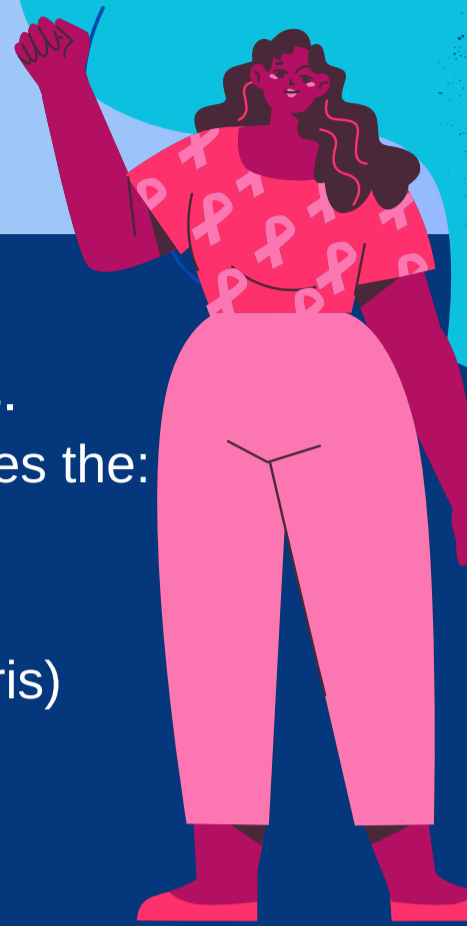
vagina

vulva (the skin of the lips surrounding the vagina and the clitoris)

anus or 'back passage'

lining of your mouth and throat.

Most people will get HPV at some point in their lives, and it usually goes away without causing any problems.



HPV QUESTIONS

Will everyone with high-risk HPV get cervical cancer?

No, having high-risk HPV does not mean you will get cervical cancer.

During our lives, 8 in 10 of us will get some type of HPV.

It usually goes away without any problems.

Most of us will never know we had it.

How do I reduce the risk of high-risk HPV turning into cervical cancer?

Going for cervical screening when invited is the best way to find cell changes early.

They can then be monitored or treated.



Is it easy to get HPV?

Because HPV lives on our skin, it is easy to get and difficult to completely protect against.

HPV is passed on through sexual contact.

This makes some people feel worried or embarrassed.

Is there a test for HPV?

Yes. HPV tests are done as part of the NHS Cervical Screening Programme for women and people with a cervix that are between 25–64 years old.



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SCAN FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

