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**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**
of Northwest Michigan

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January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

CHARLEVOIX – About 70 percent of cervical cancer in the United States could be prevented through human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination. However, as of December 2014, only 32.3 percent of females and 16.1 percent of males ages 13-17 had received the entire three-dose vaccine series, according to Michigan Care Improvement Registry data.

As Cervical Cancer Awareness Month draws to a close, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan would like to remind women aged 21 and older to be screened regularly for cervical cancer. Although the Pap smear test is simple and affordable, more than half of cervical cancer deaths are seen in women who have either never had a Pap test, or have not had testing in more than five years.

Through the Healthy Michigan Plan and most insurance plans, women's preventive health care— such as screenings for cervical cancer and mammograms— is covered without co-pays. For uninsured women ages 40-64, free Pap testing is available through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) at the Health Department. Pap tests are also available at Health Department Family Planning Clinics for women younger than age 40.

Vaccines for Children (VFC), Medicaid, MI-Child, and most health insurances pay for the HPV vaccine. For more information or for an immunization appointment, contact your physician or the Health Department at (800) 432-4121. To learn more about HPV and cervical cancer, visit www.michigan.gov/hpv or www.michigan.gov/cancer.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego Counties.