

Memorandum / Note de service

To / Destinataire : Directors, Physicians and Staff Date : September 3, 2020 Subject / Objet : Reinstatement Pap Clinics Cervical Cancer Screening	From / Expéditeur : Anja Nied-Kutterer Colorectal Cancer Screening Program Tel / Tél : 902 620 3616 Fax / Téléc : 902 368 6936 Email / Courriel : aniedkutterer@ihis.org
---	--

Cervical cancer screening clinics for patients with no symptoms resume.

The Cervical Cancer Screening Service now resumes local pap clinics.
Pap clinics offered by Health PEI was suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pap screening is a routine screening of the cervix recommended for people between 25 and 65. It is designed for people who are not experiencing symptoms such as abnormal vaginal bleeding (such as bleeding in between periods, bleeding during/after sex or after menopause), abnormal or persistent vaginal discharge, pelvic pain, or pain during sexual intercourse.

Pap screening checks for abnormal cells on the cervix, which can be an early sign of pre-cancerous cells' development. Their family doctor or nurse practitioner follows up patients with abnormal test results and, if needed, referred for colposcopy.

The Pap clinics have a coordinated plan to notify patients about pap service resumption, first addressing those patients for whom appointments were delayed.

Advice for patients:

- Patients can request a pap by doing one the following
 - contacting their primary care provider, family doctor, nurse practitioner
 - call 1-888-561-2233 for a pap with the provincial service, or
 - email colcerscreening@ihis.org or
 - register online <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/request-an-appointment-for-pap-and-cervical-cancer-screening>
- Before the pap appointment, patients will need to complete a health screening, which includes answering questions about health and recent travel.
- If having symptoms that could be consistent with COVID-19 (these include fevers, chills, cough, loss of sense of taste or smell, muscle pain, headache, or sore throat), patients are advised to cancel the pap appointment. They should check in with a primary care provider (family doctor, nurse practitioner) to review symptoms and determine the next steps, which could be a referral to a cough and fever clinic to be assessed for COVID-19.

As we reinstate pap screening, there may be modest delays in providing pap results. The laboratory continues to process any Pap samples it receives and sends primary care providers the results.

Pap screening is designed for people who are considered asymptomatic. Patients with significant symptoms, including post-coital bleeding, persistent intermenstrual bleeding, or a persistent vaginal discharge that cannot be explained by benign causes, referral to a colposcopist is appropriate. A Pap test is not required for referral.

Colposcopy clinics are accepting referrals as usual and booking patients for follow-up. Patients who have been recommended for colposcopy should be referred.

Anja Nied-Kutterer
Coordinator Colorectal Cancer Screening
Health PEI