

moma@mushkegowuk.ca

# Preparing for an HPV Test



An HPV test is a simple test that screens for infection with HPV types that can cause cancer if left untreated.

Book an appointment with your healthcare provider and they will do an HPV test for you. Try to book on a day when you don't have your period and avoid having sex or using tampons for 48 hours before the test.

1

You'll undress from the waist down and put on a hospital gown.

2

You will lie on an exam table, potentially with your feet in stirrups.

3

An instrument will be inserted into your vagina to hold it open, to show the cervix.

4

Your healthcare provider will use a small swab or spatula to remove cells from the cervix.

5

The sample taken by your healthcare provider will be sent to a lab for testing.

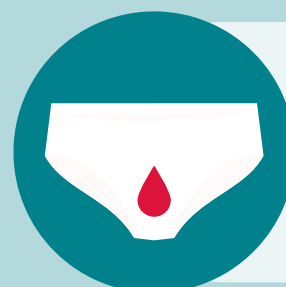
## Results

If you test **positive** for HPV, the lab will automatically do follow-up testing on your test sample to check for cell changes in the cervix. You will either be referred for additional testing or asked to repeat cervical screening in 2 years.

If your test result is **negative**, you'll receive a reminder to return for testing after 5 years (or after 3 years if you are immunocompromised).

# Signs & Symptoms

Cervical cancer may not cause any signs or symptoms in its early stages. Talk to your healthcare provider if you experience any of the following:

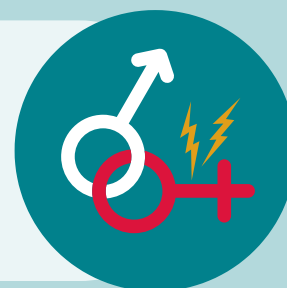


Abnormal vaginal bleeding  
(ex. between periods)

Abnormal vaginal discharge

Difficulty urinating or having  
a bowel movement

Pain during sexual  
intercourse



Pain in the pelvic area or lower  
back that may go down one leg

Swelling of the leg, often only  
on one side



Unexplained weight loss,  
loss of appetite, or fatigue

