

Regular cervical screening tests are the best way to prevent cervical cancer in all women and people with a cervix who have ever been sexually active, whether you have had the HPV vaccine or not.

CERVICAL SCREENING TEST
What do my results mean?

Low risk



Australian Centre
for the Prevention of
Cervical Cancer

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VCS Pathology is a business name of the
Australian Centre for the Prevention of
Cervical Cancer (ACPCC)



What is a Cervical Screening Test?

The cervical screening test looks for the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) virus. If HPV is present, cervical cells may need to be examined for any cell changes.

Cervical Screening Tests and the Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

We now know that infection over many years with certain types of HPV is the main cause of cervical cancer.

Most people who have ever had sexual contact will be infected with HPV at some time in their life. HPV usually has no symptoms and is cleared from the body naturally.

There are 14 HPV types that have the potential to cause cervical cancer.

If a person has a persistent infection with one of these HPV types, then cell changes may occur in the cervix. It can take 10-20 years on average for this cell change to potentially become cancerous.

If HPV is found, then the cells of the cervix need to be examined for any changes, informing what further investigation and treatment may be required.

What does my test result mean?

Your HPV test is **negative**. This means that no HPV was found in your sample and that your chances of developing cell changes that require treatment in the next 5 years are extremely low. For that reason, you should wait for 5 years before having another cervical screening test.

YOUR NEXT CERVICAL SCREENING TEST IS DUE IN 5 YEARS.

Remember: even if you have had the HPV vaccine, you will still need the 5 yearly cervical screening test.

If at any time you experience any unusual vaginal bleeding, pain or discharge, it is very important that you see your healthcare practitioner as soon as possible, even if your last cervical screening test was normal.

VCS Pathology is a business name of the Australian Centre for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer,

a not-for-profit organisation delivering public health initiatives to reduce the impact of infectious diseases and cancer.

Your information and privacy

VCS Pathology appreciates that it holds sensitive personal and health information. We have strict confidentiality policies and practices in place to protect your privacy. Our full Privacy Policy can be viewed on our website at www.acpcc.org.au/privacy-policy/ or may be obtained by telephoning us on (03) 9250 0300.

If you have any queries about how your personal information is collected, held, used or disclosed by VCS Pathology, or how to obtain access to or request correction of your personal information, please contact our Director Corporate Services by email at director@acpcc.org.au or telephone (03) 9250 0300.

How is this personal information collected?

VCS Pathology collects personal and health information directly from individuals and also from other persons involved in the care or treatment of an individual, such as the healthcare practitioner who orders their pathology test. Where an individual offers information directly to VCS Pathology, this may also be entered on the individual's health record.

My Health Records

If you have chosen to participate in the My Health Record program operated by the Commonwealth Department of Health, your screening test result will be uploaded to your My Health Record by VCS Pathology unless you or your referring healthcare practitioner has requested us not to by writing 'do not send reports to My Health Record' on the pathology request form.

You must tell us each time you have a screening test if your preference is not to have your result uploaded to your My Health Record. For more information visit:

<https://www.myhealthrecord.gov.au/for-you-your-family>
For further information, please call VCS Pathology on (03) 9250 0300 or 1800 611 635 or visit www.acpcc.org.au