



# **Act Now - Act Together**

## **Cervical Cancer Elimination Partnership Toolkit**

**#TogetherTowardsElimination**

**2040: An Ireland where cervical  
cancer is rare in every community**



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# Ireland's plan to eliminate cervical cancer

Ireland is on track to eliminate cervical cancer by 2040.  
This means we will make cervical cancer a rare disease.

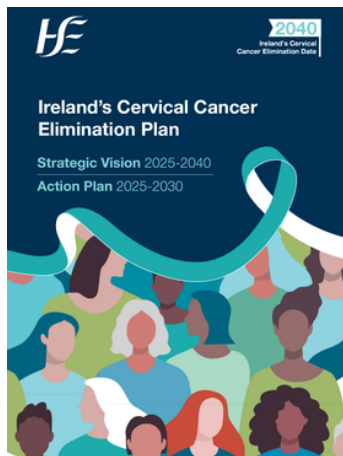
We are working to achieve the World Health Organization's 90-70-90 targets by 2030:

- 90% of girls vaccinated against HPV by age 15
- 70% of eligible women screened by age 35 and again by age 45
- 90% of women identified with cervical disease treated.

**Our goal is to reduce the rate of cervical cancer to fewer than 4 cases per 100,000 women.**

**Ireland's Cervical Cancer Elimination Action Plan**  
will help us to stay on track.

**Our vision is to make cervical cancer rare in every community.**



[hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)

# World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day - 17 November

On 17 November 2025, the world will mark the first official [World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day](#). It serves as a strong reminder that cervical cancer is preventable and treatable - and can be eliminated.

## Act now: Eliminate cervical cancer

Elimination is within reach if we act now, together - to make sure every girl is protected through HPV vaccination and every woman has access to screening and treatment.

## One act for elimination

The World Health Organization (WHO) is calling on everyone to pledge to do **one act for elimination on 17 November**.

- Start a conversation with your family and friends.
- Display a poster in your community or workplace.
- Post a message or video on social media.
- Host an awareness event.
- Light up a building in teal - the colour for cervical cancer elimination.

**Your one act can make a difference.**



[Watch the WHO video](#) showing how countries are uniting to eliminate cervical cancer (3 minutes).



# How to use this toolkit

**This toolkit is for everyone. Use it to take action in your community to eliminate cervical cancer.**






## Why it matters

**Cervical cancer is preventable and treatable. It will be the first cancer in our history to be eliminated if we all take action.**

We want everyone in Ireland to have the information they need to make an informed choice about cervical cancer prevention. Almost all cases of cervical cancer are caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV). Cervical cancer is almost entirely preventable through:

- HPV vaccination
- HPV cervical screening
- treatment for those who need it.

## Use this toolkit to:

-  **Share information** - download and post our ready-to-use factsheets and graphics on your social media channels and websites.
-  **Show your support** - print and display our posters in your workplace, community centre or healthcare setting.
-  **Spread the message** - use our sample social media posts to encourage others to take action and start conversations about cervical cancer prevention and screening.
-  **Find out more** - follow the links in the toolkit and watch our videos to get accurate, trusted information about HPV vaccination, cervical screening, treatment and cervical cancer prevention.
-  **Write about it** - use our resources to write or present about Ireland's progress towards cervical cancer elimination and share with your networks.

# When to use this toolkit

You can use the toolkit all year round and on these key calendar dates:



**World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day**



**Cervical Cancer Awareness Month**



**World Cancer Day**



**International HPV Awareness Day**



**World Immunisation Week**



**European Week Against Cancer**



# Posters

**Print and display our posters in your school, college, community centre or workplace.**

**#TogetherTowardsElimination**



# Act now - Act together

**We can eliminate cervical cancer.**

- ➔ Choose the HPV vaccine.
- ➔ Choose cervical screening.
- ➔ Go for treatment when needed.



**#TogetherTowardsElimination**

**[hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)**





# Gníomhú anois – Gníomhú le chéile.

Is féidir linn ailse cheirbheacs a dhíchur.



Roghnaigh an vacsaín  
HPV.



Roghnaigh scagthástáil  
cheirbheacsach.



Téigh le haghaidh  
cóireála nuair is gá.



**#TogetherTowardsElimination**

[hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)



# Social media tools

Post and share our sample messages and graphics on your social media channels.

**#TogetherTowardsElimination**

# Sample 1: Social media post

We can eliminate cervical cancer. Act now!

Support Ireland's vision to make cervical cancer rare in every community.

- ➔ Choose the HPV vaccine
- ➔ Choose cervical screening
- ➔ Go for treatment when needed

🌐 [hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)  
#TogetherTowardsElimination

A social media post graphic with a white background and a teal border. In the top left is the HSE logo. The main text reads 'Act now - Act together' in bold black, followed by 'We can eliminate cervical cancer.' in red. Below this is a list of three actions with teal arrow icons: 'Choose the HPV vaccine', 'Choose cervical screening', and 'Go for treatment when needed'. At the bottom left is the hashtag '#TogetherTowardsElimination' and the URL 'hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination'. On the right side, there is a decorative graphic of a teal ribbon looping over a colorful, abstract map of Ireland.

**HSE**

**Act now - Act together**

**We can eliminate cervical cancer.**

- ➔ Choose the HPV vaccine
- ➔ Choose cervical screening
- ➔ Go for treatment when needed


**#TogetherTowardsElimination**

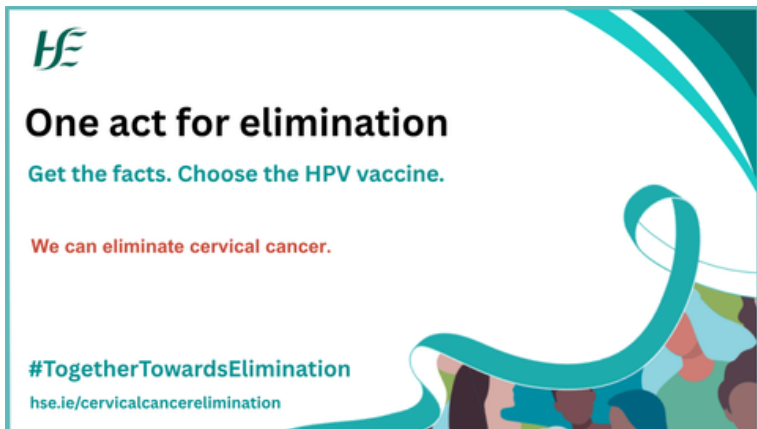
[hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)

## Sample 2: Social media post

The HPV vaccine protects against the virus that causes most cases of cervical cancer.

Act now! Learn about the benefits of the HPV vaccine.  
We can eliminate cervical cancer.

 [hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)  
#TogetherTowardsElimination



The graphic is a promotional poster for the HPV vaccine. It features a white background with a teal border. In the top left corner is the HSE logo. The main text is centered and reads: 'One act for elimination' in large black font, followed by 'Get the facts. Choose the HPV vaccine.' in teal. Below that, in red, is 'We can eliminate cervical cancer.' At the bottom left, it says '#TogetherTowardsElimination' and 'hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination'. On the right side, there is a large, stylized teal ribbon that loops around, and at the bottom right, there is a colorful, abstract pattern of overlapping shapes in teal, blue, green, and red.

**HSE**

**One act for elimination**

Get the facts. Choose the HPV vaccine.


**We can eliminate cervical cancer.**

**#TogetherTowardsElimination**  
[hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)

## Sample 3: Social media post

Cervical screening is a test for HPV - the cause of most cervical cancers.

Act now! Go for screening every time you're invited and prevent cervical cancer before it starts. We can eliminate cervical cancer.

 [hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)  
#TogetherTowardsElimination



### One act for elimination

Choose cervical screening every time you're invited.

We can eliminate cervical cancer.

#TogetherTowardsElimination

[hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)

## Sample 4: Social media post

When cervical cancer is found early, it can be treated and cured. Choose screening every time you're invited and go for treatment when you're advised.

Act now! We can eliminate cervical cancer.

 [hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)

#TogetherTowardsElimination



### One act for elimination

Go for follow-tests and treatment  
every time you're advised.

We can eliminate cervical cancer.


#TogetherTowardsElimination

[hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)

## Sample 5: Social media post

Is féidir linn ailse cheirbheacs a dhíchur. Gníomhú anois!

Tacaigh le fíis na hÉireann chun ailse cheirbheacs a dhéanamh annamh i ngach pobal.

 [hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)  
#TogetherTowardsElimination



### Gníomhú anois – Gníomhú le chéile

**Is féidir linn ailse cheirbheacs a dhíchur.**

- ➔ Roghnaigh an vacsaín HPV
- ➔ Roghnaigh scagthástáil cheirbheacsach
- ➔ Téigh le haghaidh cóireála nuair is gá

#TogetherTowardsElimination

[hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)



#TogetherTowardsElimination



# Factsheets

## **Download and share our factsheets:**

- use them to educate and start conversations
- post them on your social media channels
- display them in your workplace and community

**#TogetherTowardsElimination**



## 7 facts about cervical cancer and HPV

1

HPV – the human papillomavirus - is a common virus. There are more than 100 types of HPV.

2

Most people will get HPV at some stage in their lives and will not have symptoms.

3

HPV spreads mostly from close skin to skin contact and is usually passed on during sexual activity.

4

HPV is the cause of most cervical cancers.

5

The HPV vaccine protects against the types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer.

6

The HPV vaccine is free and is offered to first-year students to protect them from HPV before they are exposed to it in adulthood.

7

Cervical screening with CervicalCheck is a test for HPV to find out if you might be at risk of getting cervical cancer.

**Act now:** Get the HPV vaccine when you're eligible and go for cervical screening when you're invited.

We can eliminate cervical cancer.



[hse.ie/cervical-cancer](https://hse.ie/cervical-cancer)

## 6 facts about HPV vaccination

1

The HPV vaccine protects against the human papillomavirus which can cause cancer and genital warts in men and women.

2

The HPV vaccine is free through the HSE School Vaccination Programme.

3

The best time to get the HPV vaccine is in your first year of secondary school.

4

The HPV vaccine is safe. We know this from research.

5

The HPV vaccine in Ireland (called Gardasil 9) is a once-off vaccine.

6

You should still go for cervical screening if you get vaccinated. The HPV vaccine doesn't give complete protection against cervical cancer.

**Act now:** Get the HPV vaccine when you're eligible and go for cervical screening when you're invited. We can eliminate cervical cancer.



[hse.ie/hpv](https://hse.ie/hpv)

## 7 facts about HPV cervical screening

1

CervicalCheck is for women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 65.

2

Screening is for people who do not have symptoms of cervical cancer.

3

CervicalCheck is free including any treatment you might need.

4

We invite people every 3 to 5 years to book their screening appointment. You book the test yourself at any registered GP or clinic.

5

Cervical screening is a test for HPV – the virus that causes most cases of cervical cancer. By screening for HPV first, we can prevent most cases of cervical cancer.

6

The test is quick and simple – it takes about 5 minutes. Most people get a normal result - about 9 in 10 people.

7

You should still go for cervical screening if you've had the HPV vaccine.

**Act now:** Go for cervical screening every time you're invited. We can eliminate cervical cancer.



[hse.ie/cervicalcheck](https://hse.ie/cervicalcheck)

## 5 facts about colposcopy

- 1 A colposcopy examination takes a closer look at your cervix.
- 2 You might need colposcopy if your cervical screening test finds that you have abnormal cells in your cervix.
- 3 Colposcopy is free through the CervicalCheck cervical screening programme.
- 4 Colposcopy takes place in a hospital outpatient department. There are 15 colposcopy clinics in Ireland.
- 5 Some women might get treatment at colposcopy to remove abnormal cells. This helps to stop cervical cancer developing.

**Act now:** Cervical cancer can be prevented. Go for cervical screening and follow-up tests every time you're invited. We can eliminate cervical cancer.



[hse.ie/cervical-cancer](https://hse.ie/cervical-cancer)

## 6 facts about treatment for pre-cancer and cervical cancer

1

Cervical cancer can be treated. It can be cured if it is found at an early stage.

2

Treatment for pre-cancer is free through the CervicalCheck screening programme.

3

The type of treatment depends on the stage of the cancer and a team of medical specialists advise on the best treatment.

4

Treatment for early stage cervical cancer can include a Large Loop Excision of the Transformation Zone (LLETZ) under local anaesthetic in colposcopy.

5

Sometimes treatment to remove cancerous cells involves surgery under general anaesthetic such as a cone biopsy, a trachelectomy or a hysterectomy.

6

After treatment you will have appointments for regular follow-up tests and care.

**Act now:** Cervical cancer can be treated. Cervical screening aims to find pre-cancers and cervical cancer at the earliest possible stage. Go for cervical screening, follow-up tests and treatment every time you're advised.

We can eliminate cervical cancer.



[hse.ie/cervical-cancer](https://hse.ie/cervical-cancer)

## 5 facts about the symptoms of cervical cancer

1

Cervical cancer might not cause any symptoms at all until it has reached an advanced stage.

2

Unusual bleeding can be one of the first symptoms people notice. This can be bleeding between periods, after sex or after menopause.

3

Other symptoms can include unusual or persistent vaginal discharge, pain during sex and persistent pelvic or lower back pain.

4

These symptoms are common and can be caused by many different conditions. Having them does not mean you have cervical cancer.

5

Go to your GP and get the right care for you if you have symptoms. Cervical screening is for people who do not have symptoms.

**Act now:** Go to your GP if you notice any symptoms that could be caused by cervical cancer.

We can eliminate cervical cancer.



[hse.ie/cervical-cancer](https://hse.ie/cervical-cancer)



# Videos

## Watch and share our videos:

- post them on your social media channels
- use them to educate and start conversations

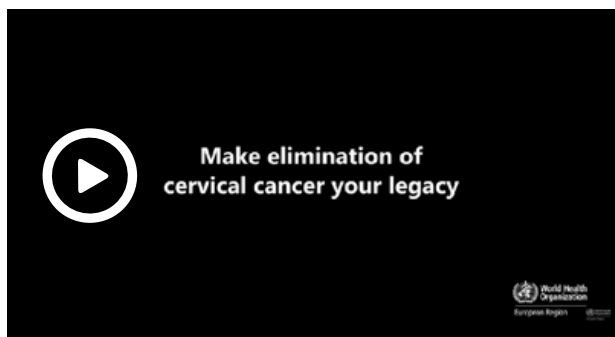
**#TogetherTowardsElimination**

## Videos: HPV vaccine

 [HPV vaccine: Protect your future \(1 minute\)](#)



 [Let's eliminate cervical cancer: the parents of Laura Brennan, HPV advocate \(3 minutes\)](#)





# Videos: Cervical screening

 [Cervical screening in Ireland \(2 minutes\)](#)



Watch this video in different languages:

 [Russian](#)

 [Polish](#)

 [Ukrainian](#)

 [Pashto](#)

 [Arabic](#)

 [Romanian](#)

 [Bulgarian](#)

 [Slovak](#)

 [Czech](#)

 [Somali](#)

## Video: Going for treatment in an ambulatory gynaecology clinic

Women who have attended their GP with symptoms may have minor gynaecology procedures carried out in an outpatient setting. This is called ambulatory care.

 [Your Ambulatory Gynaecology \(AG\) Clinic visit \(10 minutes\)](#)



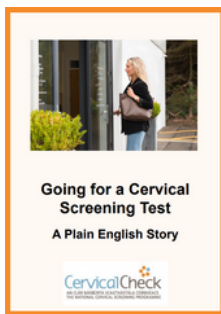
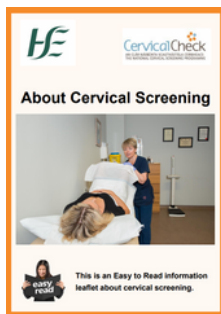
# Accessible information

Share our accessible resources including easy-to-read leaflets, photo stories and a video with Irish Sign Language.

**#TogetherTowardsElimination**

# Accessible information

## Accessible information about cervical screening and going for a colposcopy



## Video with Irish Sign Language: Cervical screening in Ireland (2 minutes)



# Writing resources

**Use these resources to write or present about Ireland's work towards cervical cancer elimination:**

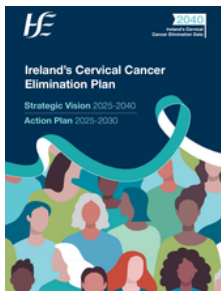
- a school project
- a college assignment
- a blog on your website
- a research article
- media reporting

**#TogetherTowardsElimination**

# Writing resources



## [Ireland's Cervical Cancer Elimination Plan 2025-2040](#)




## [World Health Organization global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer](#)




## Blogs


Our blogs tell the story of Ireland's progress towards cervical cancer elimination since we launched our first roadmap in January 2023.

 [Working together Ireland can be a world leader in the elimination of cervical cancer](#) (January 2023)

 [Together towards elimination: Ireland on track to eliminate cervical cancer by 2040](#) (November 2023)

 [Inclusive stakeholder engagement shapes national action plan to achieve cervical cancer elimination in Ireland](#) (November 2024)

 [Empowering communities to lead Ireland towards cervical cancer elimination](#) (November 2024)

 [Towards a future where cervical cancer is rare: Ireland's ambitious vision for 2040](#) (November 2024)

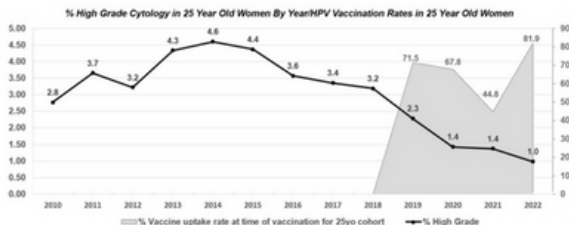
# Writing resources

## Research

### Combination of cervical screening and HPV vaccination steers Ireland on the road to Cervical Cancer Elimination

This research shows the positive protective effect of HPV vaccination in women at the time of their first cervical screening test. It's the first data in Ireland combining CervicalCheck data with National Immunisation Office data and offers early insights into the potential impact of combined HPV vaccination and cervical screening in reducing cervical disease.

#### From: The effect of HPV vaccination on the rate of high-grade cytology in 25-year-old women attending cervical screening in Ireland



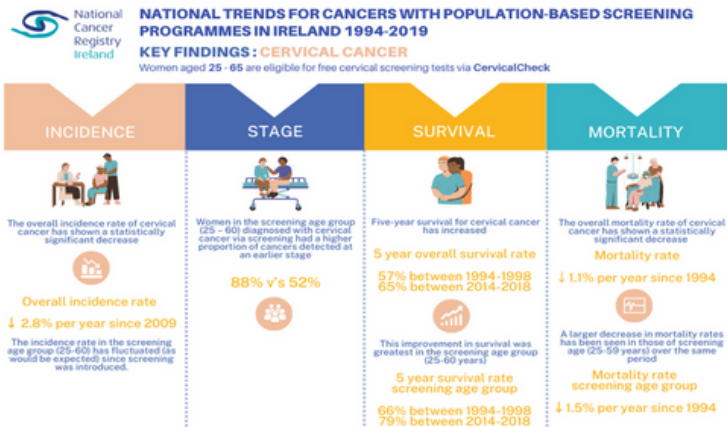
Percentage of high-grade cytology by year and HPV vaccination rates in 25-year-old women

# Writing resources

## Research

### Breast, cervical and colorectal cancer 1994-2019: National trends for cancers with population-based screening programmes in Ireland

This report, published by the National Cancer Registry Ireland in September 2022, shows the positive impact of cervical screening on cancer prevention and detection in Ireland. There has been a noticeable increase in earlier diagnosis and a demonstrable reduction in mortality.



FULL REPORT ON: [www.ncr.ie/sites/ncr/files/pubs/Trendsreport\\_breast\\_cervical\\_colorectal\\_22092022.pdf](http://www.ncr.ie/sites/ncr/files/pubs/Trendsreport_breast_cervical_colorectal_22092022.pdf)



# Writing resources

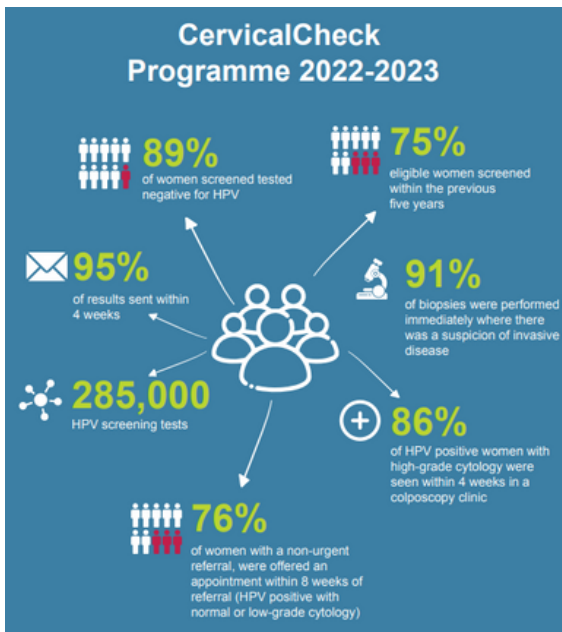
## Cervical screening data

### CervicalCheck Programme Report 2022-2023

The data in this report relate to women who received an invitation to take part in CervicalCheck between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023.


### Activity and performance data

Quarterly (provisional) data reports on the numbers of people taking part in cervical screening in Ireland.




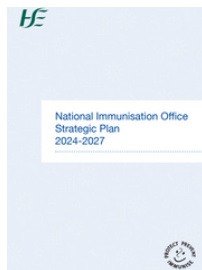
# Writing resources


## National plans and strategies

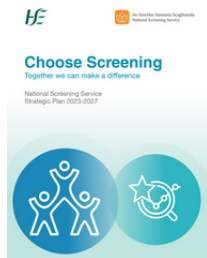
 [HSE National Cancer Control Programme: Cancer Prevention Plan 2025-2030](#)



 [HSE National Immunisation Office Strategic Plan 2024-2027](#)



 [HSE National Screening Service Strategic Plan 2023-2027: Choose Screening - Together we can make a difference](#)





# **Presentations**

**Use our presentation slide template when presenting about cervical cancer elimination in your community or workplace.**

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**2040**  
Ireland's Cervical  
Cancer Elimination Date

**#TogetherTowardsElimination**

[hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)





# Communication tools

Use our communication tools to help you write and communicate clearly.

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# Communication tools

## Communications toolkit - National Screening Service

- Tools for creating information that is caring, clear, person-centred and inclusive.

## Plain language guidelines for HSE staff



Plain language guidelines for staff  
[HSE.ie/PlainLanguage](https://www.hse.ie/PlainLanguage)



## Free eLearning course (Adult Literacy for Life): Let's talk about plain language

## **eLearning courses**

**Complete these free eLearning courses for health and social care professionals and learn more about reducing cancer risk and early diagnoses of cancer.**

**#TogetherTowardsElimination**

# eLearning courses

## 'Reducing Cancer Risk'

eLearning programme for health and social care professionals

Available at [www.hseland.ie](http://www.hseland.ie)



### Reducing cancer risk

Develop your knowledge and understanding of modifiable cancer risk reduction factors. This programme has 11 modules. Each one takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Topics covered include vaccinations, cancer screening, tobacco smoking, eating for health and physical activity. Get a CPD certificate when all modules are complete.



Find both free courses on [hseland.ie](http://hseland.ie)

### Early diagnosis of cancer

Learn how to recognise signs and symptoms of cancer and guide patients to the appropriate next steps for diagnosis and treatment. The programme includes two modules covering different types of cancer, including cervical cancer. It is accredited by the Irish College of General Practitioners for 1 CPD credit.



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# Light up for World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day

Light up your building in teal - the colour for cervical cancer elimination.

**#TogetherTowardsElimination**

# Light up on 17 November

Each year, landmark buildings across the world light up in teal - the colour for cervical cancer elimination - symbolising collective action, solidarity and hope.

As we approach World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day on 17 November:

- light your building in teal
- take a picture
- post it on your social media channels
- tag us and use the hashtag #TogetherTowardsElimination



The Department of Health building in Dublin on Cervical Cancer Elimination Day of Action 2023.

# Connect with us

## Ireland's Cervical Cancer Elimination Partnership

The HSE's National Screening Service, National Immunisation Office, National Cancer Control Programme and National Social Inclusion Office, the Department of Health, the National Cancer Registry Ireland along with patient advocates and NGOs, are working in partnership towards Ireland's 2040 target to eliminate cervical cancer.

## Contact us

National Screening Service: [communications@screeningservice.ie](mailto:communications@screeningservice.ie)

National Immunisation Office: [immunisation@hse.ie](mailto:immunisation@hse.ie)

National Cancer Control Programme: [info@cancercontrol.ie](mailto:info@cancercontrol.ie)

## Keep up to date - follow us on social media



National Screening Service, HSE  
Health Service Executive



@NSShse  
@HSELive  
@HSEImm  
@hseNCCP  
@IrishCancerReg



@nsshse.bsky.social  
@hselive.bsky.social



CervicalCheck  
HSE Ireland



@irishhealthservice



**Thank you for supporting  
Ireland's vision to make  
cervical cancer rare in every  
community by 2040.**

**#TogetherTowardsElimination**

**[hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination](https://hse.ie/cervicalcancerelimination)**



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