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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month
January 14, 2022

Since 2010, the month of January has been designated as Cervical Health Awareness Month by the United States Congress. According to the American Cancer Society, over 14,000 women are diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer, a cancer that can be prevented with routine screenings and vaccination.

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is a common virus that can be passed from one person to another during sex. There are many types of HPV and some of these can cause changes in a woman's cervix that if left undetected, can lead to cervical cancer.

"Almost all cervical cancers are caused by HPV." states Erica Craig Public Health Nurse Coordinator at the Taney County Health Department, "Through routine Pap tests and HPV testing, Cervical Cancer can be detected early and treated."

The Taney County Health Department offers the Show Me Healthy Women (SMHW) program to women who live in Missouri and meet certain guidelines. The SMHW program promotes early detection and screening services for women ages 40-64. SMHW provides clinical breast examinations, mammograms, and Pap tests for eligible women who participate in the program as well as diagnostic testing for women whose screening outcome is abnormal.

A monthly Women's Wellness Clinic is available for women ages 21-39. This clinic offers women the chance to meet with a licensed medical doctor or nurse to discuss family planning information.

To make an appointment or for more information on the SMHW program or the Family Planning Clinic, please call 417-334-4544 ext 301.

For more information contact the Taney County Health Department at 417-334-4544, visit our website at www.taneycohealth.org, or like our FaceBook, Instagram and Pinterest pages.

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The Taney County Health Department envisions a community of healthy people. Every day, we work to achieve this vision through leadership, collaboration, education and service. We value integrity, learning, teamwork, positive communication, quality improvement and dedicated service. Please visit our website <http://www.taneycohealth.org> to learn more about our services.