Screening and vaccines can prevent and detect cervical cancer

Most cervical cancer is caused by Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). HPV is transmitted through sex with an infected person. Many people don’t know that they have HPV, because there are typically no symptoms. Some types of HPV can be prevented with a vaccine. Getting a Pap test regularly can help prevent cervical cancer by detecting changes to cells on the cervix early. Cervical cancer can be prevented by not smoking, using condoms and limiting your sexual partners. Early on, cervical cancer doesn’t have symptoms. Check with your doctor to see if you are due for a Pap test. If you don’t have a health care provider, Wood County Community Health Center offers reproductive health services such as birth control, STD testing and yearly exams.