

# You are invited to cervical screening!

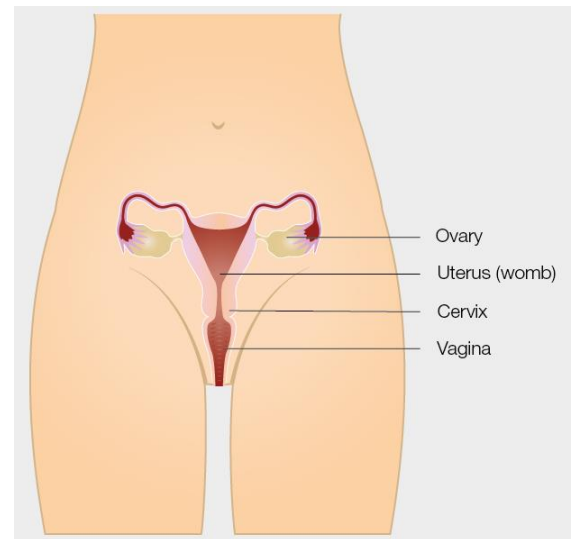
## About the cervical screening programme:

Cervical screening is a way of preventing cancer. It is also called a *smear test*.

Anyone with a cervix aged 25 – 64 will be invited to attend screening.

## How often should I attend cervical screening?

- **Aged 25 – 49:** every 3 years.
- **Aged 50 – 64:** every 5 years.
- **HIV positive:** every 1 year.



## Facts about cervical cancer:

Cervical cancer is cancer of the cervix, the part of the reproductive system that connects the womb to the vagina.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the main cause of cervical cancer, as it can cause cervical cells to become abnormal.

It is important to attend screening to detect these changes early.

## More information the test:

- Your appointment should be on a day when you are not having a period. If you would like an appointment with a female nurse this can be requested.
- A plastic instrument called a speculum will be gently inserted into the vagina in order to see the cervix clearly.
- A small soft brush will be used to take some samples of cells from the surface of your cervix – these will then be sent to the laboratory.
- If you are found to have the HPV virus, the cells will be looked at in the laboratory and you may be invited for colposcopy (a closer look at the cervix) at the hospital. Otherwise, you will return to routine screening every 1, 3 or 5 years.