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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January is National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month
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January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about cervical cancer, promoting prevention, and encouraging regular screening. Since 2010, this annual observance serves as a reminder of the importance of early detection and the life saving benefits of the HPV vaccine.

Nearly all cervical cancer cases (99%) are caused by the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), an extremely common virus that is spread through skin-to-skin contact. This means that HPV can be passed on without sexual intercourse. Most HPV infections do not cause any noticeable signs or symptoms, and the body clears away the virus on its own. But some types of HPV can cause cancer. Certain “low risk” types cause warts in the genital area in both men and women. Some “high risk” types are linked to cervical cancer. Other cancers, including anal cancer and cancers of the head and neck can be linked to the Human Papilloma Virus.

“By following preventative measures women can significantly reduce their risks for developing cervical cancer.” states Erica Craig Clinical Manager at the Taney County Health Department(TCHD). “Regular screenings and HPV vaccines are the two most effective ways to prevent cervical cancer.”

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 21-64. 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 21-65. This clinic offers women the chance to meet with a licensed medical doctor or nurse to discuss family planning information.

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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As a leader in health, the Taney County Health Department serves Taney County residents and visitors in their pursuit of a healthy lifestyle and environment. The Taney County Health Department’s mission is to create a healthy and safe community for people to live, work, and play, today and in the future. Caring, serving, and protecting Taney County since 1961. Please visit our website www.taneycohealth.org to learn more about our services.