

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**Ministerial Building**  
**Kingstown**

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

**Subject:** Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment Launches Cervical Cancer Elimination

Project by 2030 with Support from Regional and International Partners

The Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, and by extension the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, proudly announces the launch of the SVG Cervical Cancer Elimination Project and the public availability of HPV-DNA testing as the nation works toward eliminating cervical cancer as a public health problem by 2030. This bold step places St. Vincent and the Grenadines among global leaders in advancing women's health.

Cervical cancer is both highly preventable and curable when detected early. Precancerous changes can be identified through routine screening and treated before they progress to invasive cancer.

Unfortunately, across the Caribbean, including St. Vincent and the Grenadines, too many women continue to be affected by this disease. And although cervical cancer is preventable, it remains one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths among our women.

In St. Vincent and the Grenadines:

1. In 2024, 17 Vincentian women were diagnosed and 15 lost their lives to cervical cancer.
2. In 2025, 17 new cases of cervical cancer were identified as of September 2025.

The disease is caused by persistent infection with high-risk types of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Early detection of precancerous changes of HPV can be treated effectively, preventing progression to invasive cancer.

The launch of the Cervical Cancer Elimination Project is a landmark moment for St. Vincent and the Grenadines. By offering cutting-edge HPV DNA testing free of charge, the country is setting a powerful example for the region and ensuring that no woman is left behind.

This success was made possible through a strong partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) team Dr. Taraleen Malcolm, Dr. Mauricio Maza, and Dr. Sara Benitez as well as the technical expertise of valued partners from Basic Health International (BHI), represented by Dr. Karla Alfaro and Rene Novoa, and the University of Miami, with contributions from Corinne Ferrari and Cynthia Beaver. These partners have played pivotal roles in guiding the local team in this transformative journey.

This is the first time HPV DNA testing is being offered publicly and at no cost, ensuring equitable access for women across the country.

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**Who Should Be Tested?**

- Women under 30 years old are advised to have a Pap smear.
- Women 30–60 years old are encouraged to access HPV DNA testing.
- Women 60–65 years old are advised to have a Pap smear
- Women over 60 years old are also encouraged to speak with their healthcare provider about cervical cancer screening.

**Where Testing is Available**

HPV-DNA testing is available at the following health facilities across St. Vincent free of charge:

**Calliaqua Health District**

1. Belair Health Centre - 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
2. Calliaqua Health Centre - 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
3. Stubbs Polyclinic - 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

**Georgetown Health District**

1. Sandy Bay Health Centre - 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
2. Georgetown Smart Health Centre - 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Pembroke Health District**

1. Barrouallie Smart Health Centre - 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
2. Buccament Polyclinic - 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

**Marriaqua Health District**

1. Levi Latham Health Centre - 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Patients can expect their results within 14–21 days.

Women who test positive will be referred for free follow-up care and treatment available in St Vincent and the Grenadines, including thermal ablative treatment at the district level or colposcopy available at the hospital level at this time.

Vincentian women who are eligible for testing are strongly encouraged to take full advantage of this initiative. Once the pilot phase concludes, the Ministry intends to expand HPV DNA testing to all health districts across St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

This initiative demonstrates the power of strong leadership, innovation, and partnership in advancing public health. It also positions St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a model for other Caribbean nations working toward the global goal of eliminating cervical cancer as a public health problem by 2030.