



**Ontario Health**  
Cancer Care Ontario



**Erie St. Clair  
Regional Cancer Program**  
in partnership with Cancer Care Ontario

## **Media Release**

November 3, 2021  
For Immediate Release

# **CERVICAL CANCER IS ALMOST ALWAYS PREVENTABLE GET SCREENED TODAY**

**WINDSOR, ON.** \_ Looking to get screened for cervical cancer but do not have a family doctor? No doctor, no problem.

The Erie St. Clair Regional Cancer Program (ESC RCP) in partnership with the Rapid Assessment and Management Program (RAAMP) Clinic is offering cervical cancer screening through Pap tests for Windsor-Essex patients who do not have a Primary Care Provider (either family doctor or nurse practitioner). These patients must be aged 21 to 69 and have not had a Pap test in the last 3 years.

In this unique partnership, an all-woman team of Primary Care Providers at the RAAMP clinic who speak a variety of languages (including English, French, Italian, and Arabic) will provide cervical cancer screening for individuals who do not have a primary care provider.

“We want patients to feel as comfortable as possible during a routine screening appointment for a Pap test. Speaking the same language to explain the process and having the test performed by female providers are some of the ways we are working to reduce barriers in cancer screening,” says Jaime Mirea, Nurse Practitioner, RAAMP CLINIC.

Cervical cancer can be caused by infection with human papilloma virus (HPV). Screening with a Pap test is the most effective way to find cell changes in your cervix which may lead to cancer. Due to a reduction in screening over the pandemic, Pap tests in our region have fallen 37% per cent from 2019 to 2020. In 2020, there were 15,794 fewer Pap tests conducted in our region than in 2019.

It is important to keep in mind that routine cancer screening is safe during the pandemic, says Dr. Tamara Siddall, Regional Primary Care Lead for the Erie St. Clair Regional Cancer Program. “Screening is safe. Getting checked regularly is safe. Keeping up with routine cancer screening means the cancer may be smaller, less likely to spread to other areas of the body, and treatment has a better chance of working when found early.”

Patients with Primary Care Providers can call their family doctor or nurse practitioner to book their cancer screening at their earliest convenience OR request access through RAAMP if there are any barriers in obtaining cervical or any cancer screening assessments.

To book a cervical screening appointment at the RAAMP clinic, please follow the steps below:

**How to book:**

- Those with a cervix aged 21 to 69
- Have not had a Pap test in 3 years
- Book online: [www.getcheckedwindsor.ca](http://www.getcheckedwindsor.ca)
- Call: 519-252-9861 ext. 5
- **Please note – parking will be free of charge and provisions for transportation can be provided.**

**Ontario Cancer Statistics:**

- 1 in 2 Ontarians will develop cancer in their lifetime
- Cancer is the leading cause of death in Ontario
- 1 in 4 Ontarians will die of the disease
- Almost 50% of cancers can be prevented OR detected before they become a serious health issues

**ABOUT THE ERIE ST. CLAIR REGIONAL CANCER PROGRAM:**

The Erie St. Clair Regional Cancer Program is responsible for the quality and delivery of cancer services for the areas of Chatham-Kent, Sarnia/Lambton, and Windsor/Essex. It is a network of healthcare professionals and organizations involved in cancer prevention and care. It is one of 14 Regional Cancer Programs across Ontario that respond to local cancer issues. They also coordinate care across local and regional healthcare providers and work to continually improve access to care, wait times and the quality of programs and services.

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