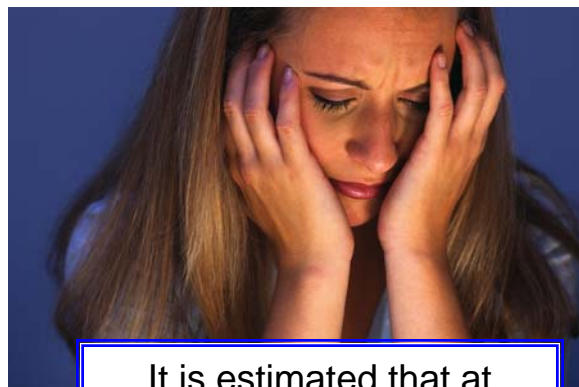


### MAY IS WOMEN'S HEALTH MONTH

#### What is HPV?

For Women's Health Month, we have chosen to focus on HPV, which is a common virus otherwise called Human Papillomavirus. There are several different types of HPV, some of which cause no harm, and some of which can cause diseases in the genital area. The virus disappears on its own in most cases. However, the virus can develop into genital warts, precancerous lesions, or cervical cancer. Both males and females are at risk for becoming infected with HPV. The scary thing about HPV is that many people show no signs or symptoms which means that the virus can be passed onto others without them even knowing it.



It is estimated that at least half of all sexually active women become infected with HPV at some point in their life.  
(CDC, 2005)

#### The Good News!



There is a vaccine called GARDASIL® that helps to protect against certain diseases caused by HPV Types 6, 11, 16, and 18. These diseases include genital warts, abnormal and precancerous cervical, vaginal, and vulvar lesions, and cervical cancer. Approximately 70% of cervical cancers and 90% of genital warts are caused by these HPV types. It is important to note that the vaccine will not treat HPV and should not be a substitute for routine cervical cancer screening. Girls and women ages nine through twenty-six years of age are eligible to receive this vaccine. The GARDASIL® vaccine can also be given to those who already know that they have HPV since most people are not infected with all four types of the HPV that are protected against by the vaccine. The vaccine is given in three

doses through an injection. The second dose is given two months after the first dose, and the third dose is given six months after the first dose. Talk to your health care professional to find out if you or someone you know will qualify for this vaccine.

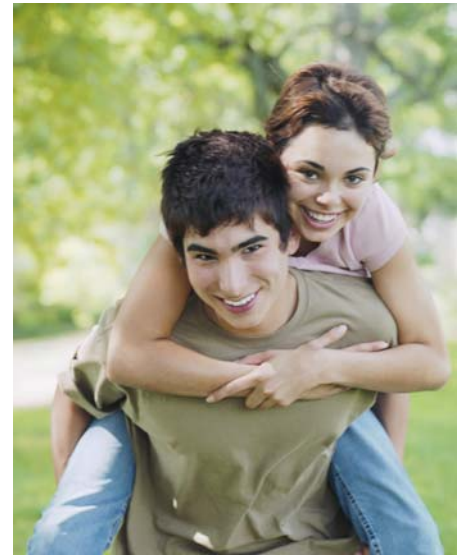
If you would like to receive this newsletter and other Scott County Health Department press releases electronically, please add your name to our e-mail list on our website at: [www.scottcountyiowa.com/health](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health).



## What are the Signs and Symptoms of HPV?

The majority of people show no signs or symptoms of HPV, so most people are unaware that they are infected and could spread the virus to their partner.

Sometimes people develop genital warts which can look like soft, moist, pink, or fresh-colored swellings and are usually found in the genital area. They can be all shapes and sizes—flat, raised, large, small, or even cauliflower shaped. It can also be just one wart or multiple warts. The warts can show up within weeks, months, or not appear at all.



## Pap Tests Can Help Detect HPV in Women

Most women who have HPV are diagnosed when they have an abnormal Pap test. A Pap test is a tool used to screen women for cervical cancer or pre-cancerous changes in the cervix, which can be related to HPV. Also, a test is available to detect HPV DNA in women. This test is usually used with women who have had an abnormal Pap test or in women over thirty years of age. It is important to note that just because you have an abnormal Pap test; it does NOT mean that you have HPV. It is simply a method to help detect abnormalities that can be associated with HPV.



4<sup>th</sup> Annual Quad Cities  
National Women's Health Week Event:

*The Spirit of a Woman*

**Saturday, May 19, 2007**

**9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**The Lodge**

**900 Spruce Hills Drive**

**Bettendorf, Iowa 52722**

Tickets--\$10, Lunch Included

*Featuring Guest Speakers:*

*Dr. Marilyn Hughes Gaston & Dr. Gayle K. Porter*

**To Register, Contact United Neighbors**

**at 563-322-7363**



## **Funds Available to Scott County Residents for Water Well Services**

The Scott County Health Department receives money from the Grants to Counties program to help residents pay for the cost of well abandonment, rehabilitation, and water sampling. This program is funded by the Iowa Department of Public Health. For more information on water well services or to request a service, please call the Scott County Health Department at 563/326-8618 or submit the online Water Well Services Request Form which can be found at:  
[http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/water\\_welltesting.php](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/water_welltesting.php).

