

### National Women's Health Network

## First FDA Decision on Contraception Since the Election...coming soon!

Female condoms may soon be more available and affordable for women in the United States and around the world, if the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) follows the recommendation made by its advisory committee last week. On December 11, the FDA convened a group of medical and scientific experts to consider a new version of the female condom, and the committee voted unanimously to recommend approval.

The new female condom has also been reviewed by the World Health Organization and found to be similar in safety and effectiveness to the first generation product. Because the new version can be manufactured at a lower cost, public sector health programs expect to be able buy more of them and to supply them more consistently to women who want them. A lower retail price can also make this tool for preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) more accessible to women who are looking for an over-the-counter method that they can initiate.

Women and girls are more vulnerable to being infected by HIV and other STIs than men both for biological reasons and because they are sometimes unable to negotiate with male partners who don't want to use condoms. Prevention options that women can initiate, like female condoms, make it possible for a woman or girl to take action to protect herself.

The National Women's Health Network asked the FDA advisory committee to recommend approval of the new female condom, and we now urge the FDA to follow its committee's advice. Approval of a safe and effective female condom that is less expensive is an important step in giving woman another option for protecting their health and preventing unintended pregnancy. To read the NWHN statement from the meeting [click here](#).

***To send your own message, urging the FDA to approve the next generation of female condoms without delay, [click here](#).***