

## DHD#10 RECOGNIZES STI AWARENESS WEEK

April 8, 2022 – District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) recognizes April 10 through April 16 as STI Awareness Week, a time to bring about awareness to the importance of prevention, testing, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

STIs, also known as STDs (sexually transmitted diseases), are common infections that are spread through sexual activity and contact. Anyone that is sexually active is at risk for an STI. Many people who have STIs do not experience symptoms, which can result in increased transmission. The only way to know for sure if you or anyone else is infected is to be tested.

Quick facts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- There are 20 million new cases of STIs in the United States every year
- The medical costs for these new cases are upwards of \$16 billion
- When adding new STI cases to existing infections, this leads to an estimated 110 million total STIs in the United States

If you are sexually active, getting tested for STIs is one of the most important things you can do to protect your health! Have an open and honest conversation with your healthcare provider about your sexual history and STI testing. This will help them understand what STI tests you may need.

“Anyone that has multiple sexual partners, people that think they may have been exposed to an STI, those who have had unprotected sex with a partner whose health status was unknown, or anyone experiencing symptoms of an STI should get tested,” said George Davis-Williams, Clinical Supervisor at DHD#10. “If you think you have an STI, it is important not to panic and make sure you schedule an appointment to be tested. It is also important to hold off on all sexual activity and contact until you receive your test results.”

Planning ahead before sexual activity can help keep you protected. A lot of stigma surrounds sexual activity and STIs; however, DHD#10 wants to take this opportunity to remind everyone that testing, results, and treatment are confidential. To schedule an STI test, follow this link: <https://www.dhd10.org/sti-test-treatment/>, or call 888-217-3904, option 2. DHD#10 also has free, mail-order condoms here: <https://www.dhd10.org/mail-order-condoms/>.

DHD#10 strives to empower people of all ages and genders to take control of their sexual health. Education services, birth control methods, counseling on fertility awareness, referrals for sterilization, STI testing and treatment, and exams, including Pap Smears and HIV testing, are available to our clients within our ten-county jurisdiction (Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford).

To learn more about adult sexual health: <https://www.dhd10.org/men-women/mw-sexual-health/>.



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### COUNTIES SERVED:

Crawford  
Kalkaska  
Lake  
Manistee  
Mason  
Mecosta  
Missaukee  
Newaygo  
Oceana  
Wexford



[www.dhd10.org](http://www.dhd10.org)



[www.facebook.com/DHD10](https://www.facebook.com/DHD10)

To learn more about teen sexual health services: <https://www.dhd10.org/sexual-health-services-teens/>.

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