



DISEASE INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS

Disease intervention specialists (DIS) are specially trained workers who focus on improving the overall health of your community through helping those impacted by sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and HIV.

DIS work from local offices in Indiana to stop the spread of STD and HIV by assisting those who have been diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis manage their infections. DIS also help people who may have come into contact with STDs/HIV or those who would benefit from testing. Each year in Indiana, with STDs refer about 4,000 people that they have come in contact with for the DIS to contact.

Find Disease Intervention Specialists in your area

DISTRICT 1

Counties: Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, Starke
Gary City Health Department
 1145 W. Fifth Ave., Gary, IN 46402
 Ph: (219) 239-2318
 Fax: (219) 881-1396

DISTRICT 2

Counties: Cass, DeKalb, Fulton, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Marshall, Miami, Noble, St. Joseph, Steuben, Whitley
Northern Indiana Maternal Child Health
 244 S. Olive St., South Bend, IN 46619
 Ph: (574) 318-4095
 Fax: (574) 387-4047

DISTRICT 3

County: Allen
Allen County Health Department
 4813 New Haven Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46803
 Ph: (260) 449-3021
 Fax: (260) 449-3507

DISTRICT 4

Counties: Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Howard, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Warren, White
Tippecanoe County Health Department
 629 N. Sixth St., Suite A, Lafayette, IN 47901
 Ph: (765) 423-9222, x 2226
 Fax: (765) 423-9797

DISTRICT 5

Counties: Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, Shelby
Bell Flower Clinic at Eskenazi Health
 640 Eskenazi Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46202
 Ph: (317) 221-8347
 Fax: (317) 221-8301

DISTRICT 6

Counties: Miami, Wabash, Huntington, Wells, Adams, Grant, Blackford, Jay, Madison
Madison County Health Department
 206 E. Ninth St., Anderson, IN 46016
 Ph: (765) 641-9523
 Fax: (765) 646-9208

DISTRICT 7

Counties: Bartholomew, Brown, Clay, Greene, Lawrence, Monroe, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion, Vigo
Monroe County Health Department
 119 W. Seventh St., Bloomington, IN 47404
 Ph: (812) 349-2829
 Fax: (812) 349-7346

DISTRICT 8

Counties: Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Martin, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, Warrick
Vanderburgh County Health Department
 420 Mulberry St., Evansville, IN 47713
 Ph: (812) 435-5683
 Fax: (812) 435-5041

DISTRICT 9

Counties: Clark, Crawford, Dearborn, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Orange, Ripley, Scott, Switzerland, Washington
Clark County Health Department
 1301 Akers Ave., Jeffersonville, IN 47130
 Ph: (812) 283-2738
 Fax: (812) 288-1474

DISTRICT 10

County: Elkhart
Elkhart County Health Department
 608 Oakland Ave., Elkhart, IN 46516
 Ph: (574) 523-2125
 Fax: (574) 389-3153

DISTRICT 11

Counties: Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Rush, Fayette, Union, Decatur, Franklin
Meridian Health Services
 240 N. Tillotson Ave., Muncie, IN 47304
 Ph: (765) 288-1928
 Fax: (888) 389-9810

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO REDUCE SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES



HOW CAN PARTNER SERVICES FOR STDs HELP ME?

STD PREVENTION



HIV/STD/VIRAL HEPATITIS
 Indiana State Department of Health



HIV/STD/VIRAL HEPATITIS
 Indiana State Department of Health



COMMON STD RELATED QUESTIONS:

WHAT IS PARTNER SERVICES?

Partner services is the care offered and provided to sex and needle-sharing partners by a disease intervention specialist (DIS). DIS will speak to clients who have been diagnosed with gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, or HIV and give them valuable information regarding the management of their infections. When working with a client, DIS will discuss ways that they can change their behavior to reduce the risk of being infected again. Over the course of the discussion, clients are educated about the infection and how to properly take any medication prescribed to them. Because DIS actively work to stop the spread of STDs in your community, clients will be asked to identify possible contacts they are aware of who may have acquired an STD and would benefit from testing and treatment. DIS are specially trained to work with clients confidentially and their contacts to break the chain of infection.

I'VE HEARD YOU ARE THE "SEX POLICE"!

Participation with partner services is always your choice. DIS should not force you to give information! This is a confidential service available to those diagnosed with infectious syphilis or HIV (and for some who have gonorrhea or chlamydia). Anyone unintentionally exposed to these infections can be informed of their exposure, get tested, and possibly receive treatment if needed without a client's name or involvement ever being mentioned. This is why it is so important for partners to work with a DIS because some agencies have strict medication policies that prohibit the presumptive treatment with antibiotics. DIS work closely with medical providers to give proper treatment to clients exposed as a way to stop any infections that could be growing in their bodies.

WHY SHOULD I CARE IF MY PARTNERS ARE TESTED?

Someone didn't care that they infected me!

STDs and HIV don't have obvious symptoms, and it's possible your sexual partners were unaware they were infected. Most people try not to infect others if they know they themselves are infected.

HERE ARE SOME OTHER REASONS TO USE PARTNER SERVICES:

Most STDs are asymptomatic, so your partner could reinfect you if they aren't treated. All STDs have a period of time where they are without symptoms, so even if your partner doesn't currently have symptoms, he or she may become symptomatic after you have received treatment.

Partner Services is confidential, meaning the DIS legally cannot tell your contacts who referred them to care and services. Protecting your personal information is extremely important to DIS and partner services.

All STDs have been steadily rising in the U.S. for the past few years, causing millions of dollars in health care costs. Those who test positive and their contacts referred to treatment by a DIS can be eligible to receive low-to-no-cost medications for presumptive treatment of an STD.

STDs also cause serious health consequences, such as deformity or death in babies, inability to get pregnant, and serious internal infections of the reproductive system. Syphilis in particular can eventually spread to your heart, lungs, brain and eyes. This can lead to dementia and blindness!

HOW CAN A DIS PROTECT MY PRIVACY WHEN TALKING TO MY PARTNERS?

I'm worried my partner will know I named him or her.

That's understandable. Through special training, DIS learn how to avoid talking about anything that could identify you. This includes your name, sex/age/race, where you live, and timeframes that include when the exposure occurred. DIS simply tell partners they have been exposed to an infection and then provide testing and treatment as needed. Keeping your personal health information is the DIS's top priority.

WHO DO I ASK FOR HELP?

- The doctor who diagnosed you can help you get in touch with us, or sometimes we will reach out to you. Please call us back if we do!
- You can call our district offices in the county where you live and ask to speak with the DIS (see list on back of brochure).
- You will need to give your name, date of birth and be willing to talk honestly with the DIS staff.

WHAT IF I HAVE CHLAMYDIA? AM I ELIGIBLE FOR PARTNER SERVICES?

DIS in some areas of the state will be able to assist you if you've been diagnosed with chlamydia. In other instances, DIS do reach out to those with chlamydia if they meet certain risk criteria. The goal of partner services is to ensure that patients who need services the most are able to work with the DIS to prevent future infections. We encourage you to reach out to your local DIS for assistance.

Because there are so many cases of chlamydia reported, DIS in certain areas may not be able to notify all partners exposed to this infection. If the DIS is unable to assist, they can discuss with you how to tell your partners yourself if this is what you'd like to do.