

## WHAT ARE THE ROLES OF DISEASE INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS IN PARTNER SERVICES?

Partner Services is a confidential service available to people who have syphilis or HIV (and for some who have gonorrhea) and need to inform their sex partners of exposure. Partner services allows a person to be confidentially informed of their exposure, and treated if necessary.

In the United States, disease intervention specialists (DIS) are specially trained workers who focus on sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and HIV. In Indiana, they work from local offices to stop the spread of STDs and HIV through confirming adequate treatment of patients with syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, and referring HIV positive patients to care. DIS also are skilled at providing risk reduction information to patients and assisting them with the informing of their exposed partners so testing and treatment may be provided to them. DIS operate under Indiana Administrative Code 410 Code IAC 1-2.5-26 (under IC Authority 16-19-3-4; IC 16-41-2-1) which gives them legal authority to conduct case investigations. Each year in Indiana about 4,000 people are referred for DIS services.

## RESOURCES

### Link to Expedited Partner Therapy

[https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/13-EPT\\_Brochure\\_webonlyFINAL.pdf](https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/13-EPT_Brochure_webonlyFINAL.pdf)  
[https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/EPT\\_Guidance\\_Document.pdf](https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/EPT_Guidance_Document.pdf)

### Link to Indiana State Department of Health STD Program Website

<https://www.in.gov/isdh/17440.htm>

### Link to online Communicable Disease Reporting Code for Indiana

[http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Final\\_Rule\\_LSA\\_.pdf](http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Final_Rule_LSA_.pdf)

### 2015 Sexually Transmitted Disease Treatment Guidelines

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/default.htm>

## 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

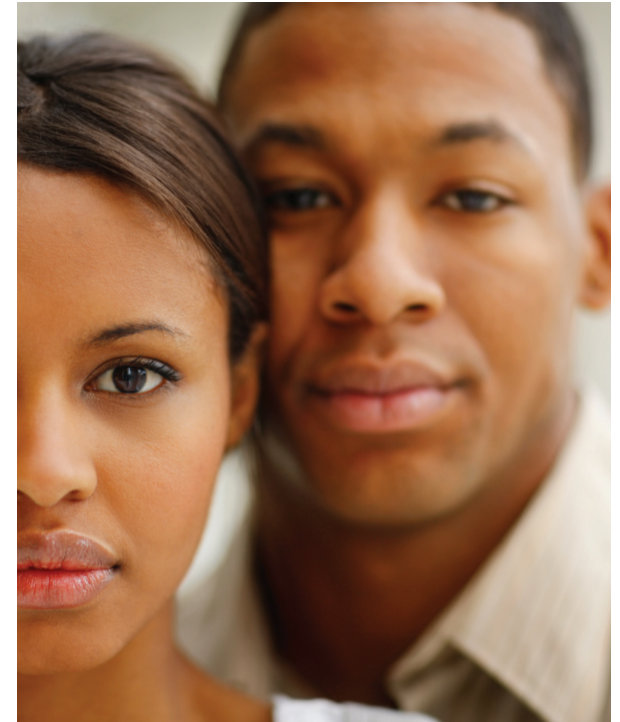
Counties: Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Rush, Fayette, Union, Decatur, Franklin

**Meridian Health Services**  
240 N. Tillotson Ave., Muncie, IN 47304  
Ph: (765) 288-1928  
Fax: (888) 389-9810



**HIV/STD/VIRAL HEPATITIS**  
Indiana State Department of Health

# WHAT HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STD/HIV PARTNER SERVICES



LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO REDUCE  
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

## STD PREVENTION



**HIV/STD/VIRAL HEPATITIS**  
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## WHAT INFECTIONS ARE COVERED BY PARTNER SERVICES?

- New syphilis cases (all cases must have an investigation completed by a DIS if infectious syphilis less than one year's duration is suspected).
- New cases of HIV diagnosed within the past year, after the health care provider submits a case report form to Indiana State Department of Health.
- Gonorrhea and chlamydia cases may be investigated depending on availability of staff and morbidity of the area.

## HOW IS MY PATIENT'S CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTED?

Confidentiality is the main priority of the disease intervention specialist (DIS). They receive specialized training coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention so they can inform exposed sex or needle-sharing contacts to STD or HIV infections without giving any information to the partner that may allow them to identify the person who referred them to the DIS. Therefore, nothing pertaining to age/sex/race of patient, when the exposure occurred, type of exposure, residence of patient, etc., is ever given to the partner being referred to testing or treatment.

## WHAT DOES THE DIS DISCUSS DURING PARTNER SERVICES?

The DIS will talk with the patient about a number of topics pertaining to their STD or HIV infection. The DIS will identify the patient's understanding of the disease and medication, discuss risks associated with the infection, suggest behavioral changes to avoid future infections, and decide the best ways to inform partners who have been exposed to this infection. All of these topics are patient-centered and focus on patient's needs based on his or her situation. DIS are trained to be culturally and socially sensitive to all patients and to work diligently to support the improvement of the patient's health instead of policing the patient's behavior. DIS will determine the best way to notify a person's contacts and then confidentially refer a contact to testing and prophylactic treatment, if needed.

## WHAT IS THE VALUE OF PARTNER SERVICES?

- Since many STDs can be asymptomatic, it is critical that people exposed are informed of their exposure. This will allow their contacts to obtain early testing and treatment if results are positive, or receive prophylactic treatment to interrupt incubating infection if negative. Your patient is at increased risk of reinfection from sex partners who are not notified of exposure and evaluated for disease.
- All STDs have been steadily rising in the United States and in Indiana for the past few years, costing millions of dollars, as well as painful and tragic health consequences from sequelae, such as deformity or death in newborns, infertility, pelvic inflammatory disease, vision loss, dementia, etc. DIS are trained to intervene in the spread of these infections as well as to work with patients and their partners on reducing the risk for future infections.
- ISDH estimates that through the efforts of health care providers and DIS, the economic impact of adequately treating patients and their partners to STDs saved more than \$25 million in direct medical and indirect costs in 2017.

## HOW CAN I HELP ENSURE EXPOSED CONTACTS TO MY PATIENT ARE NOTIFIED OR TREATED FOR STD/HIV EXPOSURE?

- Consider dispensing or prescribing oral medication directly to your heterosexual patients for them to deliver to their partners to treat chlamydia or gonorrhea (Expedited Partner Therapy or EPT).
- Encourage your patients diagnosed with syphilis, gonorrhea or chlamydia to not engage in sexual contact with their untreated partners. Encourage patients to ensure all sexual partners have been treated for 7 days prior to future sexual contact. Contacts to syphilis should be referred to a DIS for testing and treatment. Contacts to gonorrhea and chlamydia can be referred to a medical provider or clinic that can test and deliver treatment.
- If you have a patient who has a recurring gonorrhea infection, you should consider testing for antibiotic susceptibility. Epidemiologists who work with the Strengthening the U.S. Response to Resistant Gonorrhea (SURRG) project can provide you with more information on antibiotic susceptibility testing. Please email Jamie Black at [JamBlack@isdh.in.gov](mailto:JamBlack@isdh.in.gov) for more information regarding the SURRG project.
- Encourage your patients with syphilis to speak openly with the DIS when contacted, stressing confidentiality and the importance of this interaction to assist with the management of their infection.
- Discuss with all patients diagnosed with STDs or HIV the importance of partner notification and help the patient contact their local DIS for help (see list next page).
- Call your local STD district office for questions or assistance.



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# STD PREVENTION

SEE BACK OF BROCHURE FOR LOCATIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION