

## **NEWS**

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### **Know Your Status: CDHD Offers Free Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing During Month of December**

During the month of December, the Central District Health Department (CDHD) is encouraging people to know their sexual health status by getting tested for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). December 1<sup>st</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>, CDHD will offer free STI testing by appointment at its clinics in Boise, Mountain Home and McCall.

#### **Who should get tested for STIs?**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once in their life. Additional, and potentially regular testing, is recommended for anyone whose behavior puts them at risk.

In Idaho, STI rates are increasing. In 2016, 6,706 reports of STI infections were reported—nearly four infections for every 1,000 Idahoans. While chlamydia and gonorrhea infections are seen most often in 15-29 year olds, early syphilis and HIV infections affect a wider age range in Idaho.

“Some sexually transmitted infections like chlamydia and gonorrhea often do not have obvious symptoms and someone can easily spread the infection, and potentially experience lasting effects, like infertility, from an untreated infection. We want people who are having sex or considering it to take charge and ‘know now’ by getting tested,” said Brandon Atkins, clinic manager for CDHD’s Boise clinic. Most STIs are treatable, or effective infection management exists.

Free STI testing appointments will include a visit with a CDHD clinician, testing for STIs, which may include HIV, Hepatitis C (screening), gonorrhea and syphilis. Treatment as appropriate will be provided free of charge and referrals made for any necessary longer-term treatment. Visits

outside of STI testing will be billed on a sliding fee scale according to ability to pay. All visits are confidential.

Appointments are required. In Ada County, call 208-327-7400, in Valley County, call 208-630-8002, and in Elmore County, call 208-587-4407.

### **About Central District Health**

Through its clinics in Boise, McCall and Mountain Home, CDHD provides family planning and birth control, pregnancy testing, breast and cervical cancer screenings, a weekly walk-in teen clinic in Boise, and immunizations for children through age 18. For more information on reproductive health and immunization services at CDHD, visit [www.cdhd.idaho.gov/hl-reproductivehealth.php](http://www.cdhd.idaho.gov/hl-reproductivehealth.php).

For more information on CDHD's initiatives, programs and services, visit [www.cdhd.idaho.gov](http://www.cdhd.idaho.gov).

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