

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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CDH encourages people to know their status through free sexually transmitted infection testing in June

Specific dates offered for Mountain Home and McCall clinics

CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH, IDAHO – During the month of June, Central District Health (CDH) is encouraging people to prioritize their sexual health status by getting tested for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), sometimes also referred to as Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). Between June 1 and June 30, CDH will offer free STI testing by appointment at its three clinics. In Boise, appointments will be available weekdays throughout the month of June; in Mountain Home, appointments are available Wednesday, June 2, and Wednesday, June 16, and in McCall, appointments are available on Tuesday, June 29.

“Testing for STIs is among one of the health care needs that many people put on the back burner this past year because of COVID-19. We really want to encourage people who can benefit from this free testing opportunity to make it a priority in June to take charge of their health. Come in and talk with one of our clinicians and get tested for STIs,” said Ryan Atwood, Physician Assistant with Central District Health.

Who should get tested for STIs?

If you are sexually active, getting tested for STIs is one of the most important things you can do to protect your health. 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 may be recommended based on specific behaviors that can increase a person’s risk.

In 2019, 3,163 STI infections were reported within CDH’s jurisdiction; an increase from 2018 when 2,781 STIs (including HIV) were reported. 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,” added Atwood. Most STIs are treatable or effective infection management exists.

Free STI testing appointments will include a visit with a CDH clinician, testing for STIs, which may include HIV, Hepatitis C (screening), gonorrhea, and syphilis. Treatment will also be provided free of charge if necessary. Visits outside of STI testing will be billed on a sliding fee scale according to the ability to pay. All visits are confidential. Clients with insurance will have their insurance billed for any STI testing or treatment, but will not have to pay out-of-pocket cost for such appointments in June.

Make an appointment in June

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. Boise County residents may make an appointment in Ada County or the CDH clinic that works best for them.

About health care services at Central District Health

Through its clinics in Boise, McCall, and Mountain Home, CDH’s Family & Clinic Services provides affordable, primary care for children, adolescents, and adults, including mild to moderate chronic disease management, wellness/annual visits, sick visits, minor sutures, mental health care, immunizations, reproductive health care (including exams, STD testing, contraception), and more – all in a confidential, non-judgmental environment. All major insurance companies are accepted, including Medicaid, and CDH continues to offer a sliding fee payment scale. For more information on Family & Clinic Services at CDH, visit <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/hl-clinics>.

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Media Contact:

Christine Myron, Central District Health Public Information Officer
208-871-1712 | cmyron@cdh.idaho.gov