



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 Network**  
413 W. McKinley Ave, Ste D, Mishawaka, IN 46545  
Ph: (574) 318-4095, Fax: (574) 387-4047

### DISTRICT 3

County: Allen

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

### DISTRICT 4

Counties: Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Howard, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Warren, Wh e

**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

### DISTRICTS

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

**Manrae County Health Department**  
119 W. Seventh St., Blaamington, 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: Claril, Crawford, Dearborn, Elfd, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Orange, Ripley, Scott, Switzerland, Washington

**Clark County Health Department**  
1201 Wall Street, Jeffersonville, IN 47130  
Ph: (812) 288-2706.  
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. Tillatsan Ave., Muncie, IN 47304  
Ph: (765) 288-1928  
Fax: (888) 389-9810

HIV/STD/NR AL HEPATITIS  
100ianaStateDepartmentofHealth

# 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



# 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.



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.

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?



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.