



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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For Immediate Release:

April 10, 2017

APRIL IS SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH **Free HIV Testing Available**

FREDERICK, MD -- April is Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Awareness Month and the Frederick County Health Department would like to provide the community with an update on STD's in Frederick County.

Preliminary data for 2016 show a 20.3% increase in chlamydia cases (687 versus 571) and a 15.3% increase in gonorrhea cases (98 versus 85) from 2015. Early syphilis (primary, secondary, and early latent of less than 1 year duration) cases increased by 27.3% (16 versus 22).

New HIV cases increased by 71.4% (7 cases in 2015 and 12 in 2016).

Routinely offering testing for STD's and HIV to patients between the ages of 15 and 64 will help to increase awareness of the risk of exposure and to identify people who are infected and do not know it. Early identification leads to treatment which, in turn, will reduce the number of people infected.

Timely reporting of these diseases by healthcare providers and laboratories is part of a larger strategy to control and prevent STD's through appropriate treatment. "Of concern is that gonorrhea is showing increasing resistance to various medications, which will present a problem in treating drug resistant

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gonorrhea. Therefore, appropriate use of antibiotics is very important to prevent resistance,” states Chris Lane, HIV Program Supervisor.

The Frederick County Health Department offers the following STD-related services:

- Free rapid HIV testing with results available in 15 minutes
- Free STD screening and treatment for persons age 20 years and younger
- Free treatment for syphilis
- Partner notification for individuals diagnosed with HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea, and/or chlamydia
 - Our Disease Intervention Specialist can assist individuals with locating and informing partners at risk for STD’s.
- HIV treatment and case management
- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) referrals
- HIV support groups

For HIV Testing information call 301-600-3342.

For the Disease Intervention Specialist call 301-600-3241.

For HIV Support Groups call 301-600-3388.

For more information about STD services in Frederick County contact call Chris Lane: 301-600-3117 or visit <http://health.frederickcountymd.gov/256/HIV-AIDS-Services>.

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