



News from the Office of
ERIE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARK POLONCARZ

NEWS RELEASE

Health Commissioner Dr. Gale Burstein

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April is National STD Awareness Month

Erie County Department of Health Highlights Impact of Sexually Transmitted Diseases

ERIE COUNTY, NY— The Erie County Department of Health (“ECDOH”) supports National STD Awareness Month, a month designated to decreasing the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Nearly 20 million new STIs occur in the United States every year costing the American healthcare system nearly \$16 billion in direct medical costs alone, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). America’s youth shoulder a substantial burden of these infections. CDC estimates that half of all new STIs in the country occur among young men and women aged 15 to 24.

“Abstaining from sex, reducing the number of sexual partners, and consistently and correctly using condoms are all effective prevention strategies,” **said Erie County Health Commissioner Dr. Gale Burstein.** “Safe, effective vaccines are also available to prevent the most common types of the human papillomavirus (HPV) that cause disease and cancer. The vast majority of STIs do not cause any symptoms, yet can lead to substantial health complications, especially among females, including increased risk of ectopic pregnancy, chronic pelvic pain, and infertility. For both males and females, many STIs increase the risk of HIV infection. CDC and all major medical professional organizations recommend routine STI screening for all sexually experienced young people. STI screening and prompt treatment, if infected, is critical to protect a person’s health and prevent transmission to others, especially since gonorrhea is becoming difficult to treat with routine antibiotics.”

ECDOH operates Erie County’s only STD clinic at 608 William Street, Buffalo, New York. All STI testing and treatment at the clinic is **free and confidential**. Anyone 12 years of age and older can utilize the STD clinic. Diagnosis and treatment is provided for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, bacterial vaginosis, trichomonas, genital herpes, genital warts, public lice, scabies and other STIs. The clinic also provides HIV counseling and testing, educational presentations to community groups, and STI educational materials.

Clinic hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 11:30 am and from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm; Fridays from 10:00 am to 11:30 am and from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Walk-in only - No

appointments are taken. Patients are seen on a first come, first serve basis. Patients are encouraged to bring picture ID and a list of all medications and dosages they are currently taking if they are seeking care from the STD clinic.

For additional information on STIs and ECDOH's STD Clinic go to:

Erie County Department of Health

<http://www.erie.gov/health/>

For more information on STIs:

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/>