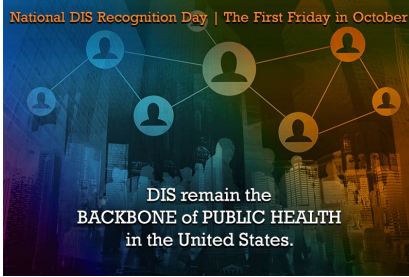


Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS)



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division of HIV and STI Programs (MDHHS/DHSP) Field Services team includes **Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS)**. DIS are a **highly skilled resource** who work to preserve and promote the health of our communities as they partner with medical providers in the testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

DIS provide follow-up to clients who have tested positive for syphilis and/or HIV, as well as reach out to all contacts who may have been exposed to ensure they have been provided medical evaluation.

The current rise in heterosexual cases of syphilis has reinforced the need for DIS to work closely with our medical colleagues to combat this infection and to protect our community members.

DIS routinely call or text, as well as visit residences, worksites, schools, etc., to **confidentially** follow up with affected Michiganders. This provides infected individuals with crucial services needed to ensure adequate treatment and follow-up, and to reduce or eliminate the spread.

How DIS Support Medical Providers:

- Provide a comprehensive syphilis history, which is necessary for the medical team to develop a patient-centered treatment plan.
- Conduct in-service trainings with the medical team on current STI testing and treatment.
- Assist the provider by notifying a patient of their syphilis or HIV test result.
- When syphilis testing is provided at a site that does not stock medication for treatment, DIS can bring the medication to treat syphilis to the provider's office.
- Confidentially talk to patient's partners and assure testing and treatment for them. This critical step reduces the potential for reinfection of the patient.

DIS are highly educated in sexually transmitted infections (STI) and are a valuable resource for you and your patients. Using a team approach reduces the burden on everyone to combat STIs. Remember, DIS are here to serve and they welcome your calls and questions.

How Medical Providers Can Support DIS:

- Talk to office staff about the importance of a team approach when testing for STIs. Let them know that time is of the essence in successfully intervening in STI transmission. Local or state health department DIS might call the office to coordinate treatment and it is important to prioritize communication with the DIS.
- When testing for an STI, let your patient know that you work as a team with health department DIS. Stress the importance of talking with the DIS when they reach out. It will be helpful to share that DIS take **confidentiality** seriously and they can feel safe talking with them.



DIS are a highly skilled resource that are here to join you in preserving and promoting public health in our communities throughout Michigan