



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE FOR  
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## Kalamazoo County Health Department Recognizes April as STD Awareness Month

KALAMAZOO, MI— The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is recognizing the month of April 2022 as Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Awareness Month. STDs are common, but many people may not know they have an STD due to many STDs having little or no symptoms in the early stages. Left undetected and untreated, STDs can cause serious long-term health problems. During STD Awareness Month, Kalamazoo County HCS is drawing attention to the importance of STD testing. Because the only way to know if you have an STD is to be tested, Kalamazoo County HCS is urging all residents who are sexually active to be tested for STDs.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Kalamazoo County HCS focused staff efforts on addressing COVID-19 vaccinations, testing, and educating the community about Isolation and Quarantine guidelines. Other services, such as STD testing, treatment, and counseling, have remained open to the public; however, the number of residents tested and treated has decreased significantly. Because STD testing rates have decreased, Kalamazoo County HCS is concerned that there may be STDs spreading throughout Kalamazoo County untraced.

“The drop in testing has us at the health department very concerned that we don’t see the full picture of what could be happening with STD rates in our community,” states Kalamazoo County Personal Health Division Chief Penny Born. “Even the data we have currently may not show the real state of STD spread in Kalamazoo County. Anyone sexually active should be tested for STDs regularly, even though the topic of STD testing may be uncomfortable. Knowing your status will give you peace of mind and prevent long-term health problems from untreated STDs.”

Like with other illnesses that spread from person to person, testing is a public health tool that allows the disease intervention specialists at Kalamazoo County HCS to prevent the further spread of STDs in our community. Kalamazoo County HCS has dedicated staff that works with the community to help coordinate testing, treatment, education, and counseling about STDs. The Kalamazoo County [HCS STD Clinic](#), located at 311 E. Alcott Street, provides **no-cost, confidential** STD testing and treatment to anyone 12 years and older, with no appointment necessary.

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HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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