



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE
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Kalamazoo County Investigating Cases of Rare Gonorrhea Infections

KALAMAZOO, MI – Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, is investigating eleven cases – ten confirmed and one possible – of a serious and rare complication of gonorrhea infection that often requires hospitalization.

Disseminated gonococcal infection (DGI) can occur following a sexually transmitted gonorrhea infection. Symptoms may include fever, chills, joint pain, stiffness, and swelling. DGI can also cause infections in joints and internal organs. Patients may or may not have the symptoms of a sexually transmitted disease (STD), so anyone experiencing these symptoms is urged to contact their healthcare provider.

Healthcare providers with patients experiencing these symptoms are asked to immediately report cases to Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department. Cases can be reported to Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department at 269-373-5267.

“Gonorrhea infection that spreads to joints and internal organs is a rare but serious infection that may require hospitalization, IV antibiotics and surgery. We urge community members to protect themselves from this preventable infection through safe sex practices, including using condoms,” said Dr. William Nettleton, Medical Director of Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department.

Abstaining from sex, reducing the number of sexual partners, and consistent and correct use of condoms are all effective strategies to prevent gonorrhea and other sexually transmitted diseases. Prompt treatment of sexually transmitted diseases also reduces the risk of infection being passed to others through sexual contact.

An STD Toolkit developed by Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department for community members and healthcare professionals is available as an online educational resource here:

[Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department STD Toolkit](#)

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis all increased in 2018; Kalamazoo County reported 2,362 cases of chlamydia; 1,072 cases of gonorrhea; and 12 cases of primary and secondary syphilis. In Kalamazoo County, gonorrhea cases increased from 852 cases in 2017 to 1,072 cases in 2018; a 21 percent increase.

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