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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health department combats sexually transmitted infection rates with health services, free condoms

LANSING, Mich. –April is Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Awareness Month and the health department is reminding community members that prevention, testing and treatment are critical to reducing infection rates and maintaining good sexual and reproductive health.

Although sexually transmitted infection (STI) rates slightly decreased in Ingham County in 2017, they remain higher than the state and national averages. To combat the spread, the health department offers comprehensive testing and consultations at no or low cost. Free condoms are also available at the health department both in person and online.

“STIs are very common,” said Linda S. Vail, Ingham County Health Officer. “All of them can be managed, and many can be cured.”

Frequently, STIs may have no symptoms but can still cause long-term damage to the body. Testing is the only way to know whether or not someone has an STI. The health department is open for testing, Monday-Friday, by appointment at (517) 887-4424.

“Cost and confidentiality should never be barriers to getting tested and treated,” said Vail. “I encourage everyone who may have been exposed to get tested.”

For more information or to request condoms, visit hd.ingham.org.

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