



## Health Department

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## On National Condom Day, City of Milwaukee Health Department Urges Awareness for Safe Sex

*Health officials highlight local STI data in push for public awareness around condom use and STI testing*

MILWAUKEE – On National Condom Day, the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) is issuing a reminder of the importance of condom use and testing for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). The reminder comes as the MHD highlights data on the rates of STIs within the Milwaukee metropolitan statistical area\* (MSA), which shows that the area is the No. 1 MSA in the nation for Gonorrhea, the No. 4 MSA in the nation for chlamydia. The city of Milwaukee also accounts for nearly half of all new HIV cases in the state.

“Across the nation, STIs are being reported at epidemic levels,” Angela Hagy, Director of Disease Control and Environmental Health for the City of Milwaukee Health Department. “Locally, data indicates that half of all sexually active people will get an STI before the age of 25. Condom use is an effective and essential way to prevent the spread of STIs for sexually active individuals.”

Along with correct use of a condom every time you engage in sexual activity, health officials stress that regular STI testing is essential to preventing the spread of STIs and protecting your long-term health.

“It is important that anyone engaging in sexual activity know how to access and use condoms correctly every time you are having sexual activity, unless you are trying to get pregnant,” said Angela Hagy, Director of Disease Control and Environmental Health for the City of Milwaukee Health Department. “As a community, we must start a conversation about condom use and reduce the stigma around STI testing and awareness.”

The City of Milwaukee Health Department’s Keenan Health Center and Northwest Health Center offer free, confidential STI testing and counseling services. Free or low-cost STI testing is also available at health care providers citywide.

Health officials urge the Milwaukee community to practice sex safe, today and every day. To reduce the risk of contracting or spreading STIs and HIV:

- **Wear a condom.** Condoms should be used consistently and correctly for vaginal, anal, and oral sex. It is important to use a new condom for each sex act.
- **Know your status.** Untreated STIs can cause long-term health problems and can lead to other health issues. Get tested regularly. Knowing your status helps protect your health and your partner’s health.
- **Talk to your partner.** Having an open line of communication with your partner makes sex healthier and more enjoyable. It is important if you have an STI to notify your current partner, as well as past partners, so that they may get tested too.
- **Make sexual health a part of your health routine.** Your sexual health is in your hands. Make informed choices that promote sexual health and responsibility.

For information on free condoms and STI testing, visit [www.414AllMKE.org](http://www.414AllMKE.org). The 414 All Campaign, a partnership with Diverse & Resilient, provides information and resources on safe sex, free condoms, and local STI testing locations.

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\*The Milwaukee Metropolitan Statistical Area consists of Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha Counties.

*Think Health. Act Now!*

