



What Is a DIS?



Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) are trained public health professionals who play a vital role in helping stop the spread of disease. DIS are trained to connect with and counsel people who are diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections (STIs), facilitate **Partner Notification**, and assist with testing and treatment.

DIS come from diverse educational and professional backgrounds, bringing a wealth of STI/HIV and other communicable disease knowledge and skills to the communities they serve.

These skills include:

- Identifying and locating those who have been exposed to STIs or HIV
- Case investigation
- Sexual history taking
- Education and risk reduction
- Phlebotomy
- Field and rapid testing
- Referral provision for testing, treatment, and other community services

What Does a DIS Do?



In Oregon, DIS serve a critical role in reporting and controlling the spread of STIs and HIV. Often, DIS are the main contact for STI prevention and education within their communities. DIS are responsible for investigating STI and HIV cases and work alongside clinicians to ensure accurate data collection and detailed data entry through the Orpheus surveillance system.

DIS confidentially work with patients diagnosed with STIs/HIV and their sexual and/or needle-sharing partners and provide **Partner Services**.

Partner Services include:

- Locating patients
- Creating a plan of notifying partners of possible exposure*
- Providing testing, treatment, and counseling services to break the chain of infection

*Patients can decide to notify their partners themselves with coaching provided by the DIS, or it can be done directly by the DIS. The DIS works diligently to never disclose identifying information from patients or their partners.

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How Can DIS Help?



DIS are unique, and so is their work based on the county within which they work. Not all those who conduct STI Case Investigation share the title of "DIS", which contributes to the diversity of the DIS workforce in Oregon.

DIS provide valuable information to help diagnosed patients and their partners manage and treat their infection. They also work to decrease incidence and prevent transmission and re-infection.

DIS also assist in locating individuals who have been tested and did not return for results or treatment and linking them to care. Once located, DIS will refer patients back to their clinician, or their local health department for testing and/or treatment.

Additionally, DIS work closely with clinicians and community-based organizations to link patients to additional services and programs such as mental health, housing, financial aid, and information on and referrals for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and services for pregnant people and families such as WIC.

Investigative Guidelines



What are investigative guidelines?:

The Oregon Health Authority provides detailed guidance on all reportable diseases, including chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis.

What can these guidelines be used for?:

These guidelines can be used to help DIS navigate requirements for:

- Disease reporting
- Disease epidemiology
- Case definitions
- Staging categories
- Treatment recommendations
- Case investigation
- Special situations
- Transmission control measures



Looking for a Complete List of Reportable Diseases?



To view a complete list of reportable disease investigative guidelines, follow the QR Code below.

