



What Is a DIS?

Disease Intervention Specialists, or DIS, are trained public health professionals who are responsible for locating and counseling people with sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

DIS can be found working in many offices throughout Oregon such as local public health offices, clinics, and other community-based organizations.

Other professionals who may be doing DIS work in your community may include:

- Communicable Disease Nurses
- Public Health Nurses
- Epidemiologists
- Outreach Specialists
- Case Investigators

DIS are specifically trained on:

- The causes and spread of STIs
- Presenting community members with accurate information about STIs
- Locating and notifying partners
- Providing information on preventing future infection
- Ensuring proper testing and treatment are received by the patient
- Connecting patients to additional resources as needed.



What Is Partner Notification?



DIS help to ensure that those diagnosed with STIs receive appropriate treatment and educational counseling. And, partners are notified and brought in for testing and treatment.

DIS will work with those diagnosed with an STI to create a plan to contact their partners to let them know of their possible exposure and help them get testing and treatment.

Those diagnosed can play an active role in telling their partners, or the DIS is also able to let them know if they do not feel comfortable doing so.

Once the first interview is over, the DIS may follow up again to help assist with any other concerns. DIS may also verify if treatment has been completed and get any additional information on partners.

Privacy is of the highest priority for DIS. DIS are trained to maintain the anonymity of the person diagnosed with an STI when notifying partners.

Those diagnosed with an STI can play an active role in notifying their partners through a variety of ways. If you'd prefer to notify your partners yourself, visit TellYourPartner.org, a website that makes it easy to anonymously tell your partners they might have an STI.



How Will DIS Follow-Up With Me?

DIS routinely follow up with those who have been diagnosed with STIs such as syphilis, HIV, gonorrhea, and depending on local processes, chlamydia.

DIS help to ensure that those diagnosed with STIs receive appropriate treatment and educational counseling. And, partners are notified and brought in for testing and treatment. This confidential process is called **Partner Services** and may include sex or needle-sharing partners.

Those diagnosed with an STI may be asked to share information about themselves and their partners such as name, date of birth, address/current living situation, sex, and needle-sharing partners. The collection of this information is vital to help guide public health activities around STI prevention.



FAQ's



- Why do DIS have access to my information?

When someone is diagnosed with certain STIs their clinician is required to report that diagnosis to the Oregon Health Authority. The local health department is then notified, and information is shared with a DIS so they may contact those diagnosed to start partner services. All information is kept confidential and only those directly involved in the person's care are allowed access to this information.

- What if I don't wish to be contacted by DIS?

It is always the choice of the individual diagnosed whether they want to participate in partner services, but the more information provided, the better a DIS can support those diagnosed and their partners.

- What if someone answers my phone? How is my privacy protected?

DIS cannot identify the reason they are calling until they have confirmed the identity of whom they are speaking with. This is done to ensure that information is protected, which is the top priority.

DID YOU KNOW?

The rise in STI rates across Oregon is causing serious public health concerns. If left untreated, STIs can lead to severe health consequences, including increased risk of HIV transmission, pregnancy complications, and even infertility.