



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH



Cook County DEPT.
of
Public Health
Promoting health. Preventing disease. Protecting you.

Toni Preckwinkle
President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

John Jay Shannon, MD
Chief Executive Officer, Cook County Health

Terry Mason, MD
Chief Operating Officer
Cook County Department of Public Health

Press Release

For immediate release: April 26, 2019

Contact: Kimberley Conrad Junius

Phone 708-633-8328 or 312-446-2984

Email kjunius@cookcountyhhs.org

Health officials warn, “Don’t guess. Get a test.”

Free Gonorrhea and Chlamydia Tests in Country Club Hills 5/3

COUNTRY CLUB HILLS, Ill. – Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) will be providing FREE gonorrhea and chlamydia testing on Friday, May 3rd, from 11a.m. to 5 p.m. at Hillcrest Baptist Church, 17300 Crawford Avenue, Country Club Hills. All sexually active suburban Cook County (SCC) residents – especially those ages 15 to 24 years old – are encouraged to attend. Walk-ins are welcome. No appointment or insurance is required.

Chlamydia is the most frequently reported infectious disease in the U.S. and gonorrhea the second. Rates have been increasing for three years in a row.

“Two-thirds of all reported cases are between 15 and 24 years old,” said Dr. Demian Christiansen, director of communicable disease prevention and control. “We are seeing clusters of cases in the west and south suburbs, but diseases know no boundaries. We all need to work together to stop these diseases from spreading.”

“Sexually transmitted infections often have no symptoms, or can masquerade as other things,” said Chief Operating Officer Dr. Terry Mason, “That’s why we say, ‘Don’t guess. Get a test. No blood test is required. It’s just a simple urine sample and cheek swab.’”

Left untreated, chlamydia and gonorrhea can cause very serious complications. “The good news is, with the right medications, most STIs can be treated and cured,” said Dr. Mason. “There is nothing to fear but fear itself.”

The most recent STI surveillance data is from 2017 and was released in 2018:

- The chlamydia rates (per 100,000) were 528.8 (1,708,569 total cases) nationally, 588.6 (75,518 total cases) in Illinois, 495.9 (11,244 total cases) in SCC (excluding Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie and Stickney Township) and 1,123.8 (30,292 total cases) in Chicago.
- The gonorrhea rates (per 100,000) were 171.9 (555,608 total cases) nationally, 186 (23,859 total cases) in Illinois, 129.7 (2,941 total cases) in SCC (excluding Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie and Stickney Township), and 435.2 (11,730 total cases) in Chicago.

For more information about the May 3rd event, please call 708-838-5455.

###

Please note: Due to privacy concerns, media will not be allowed at testing site.