

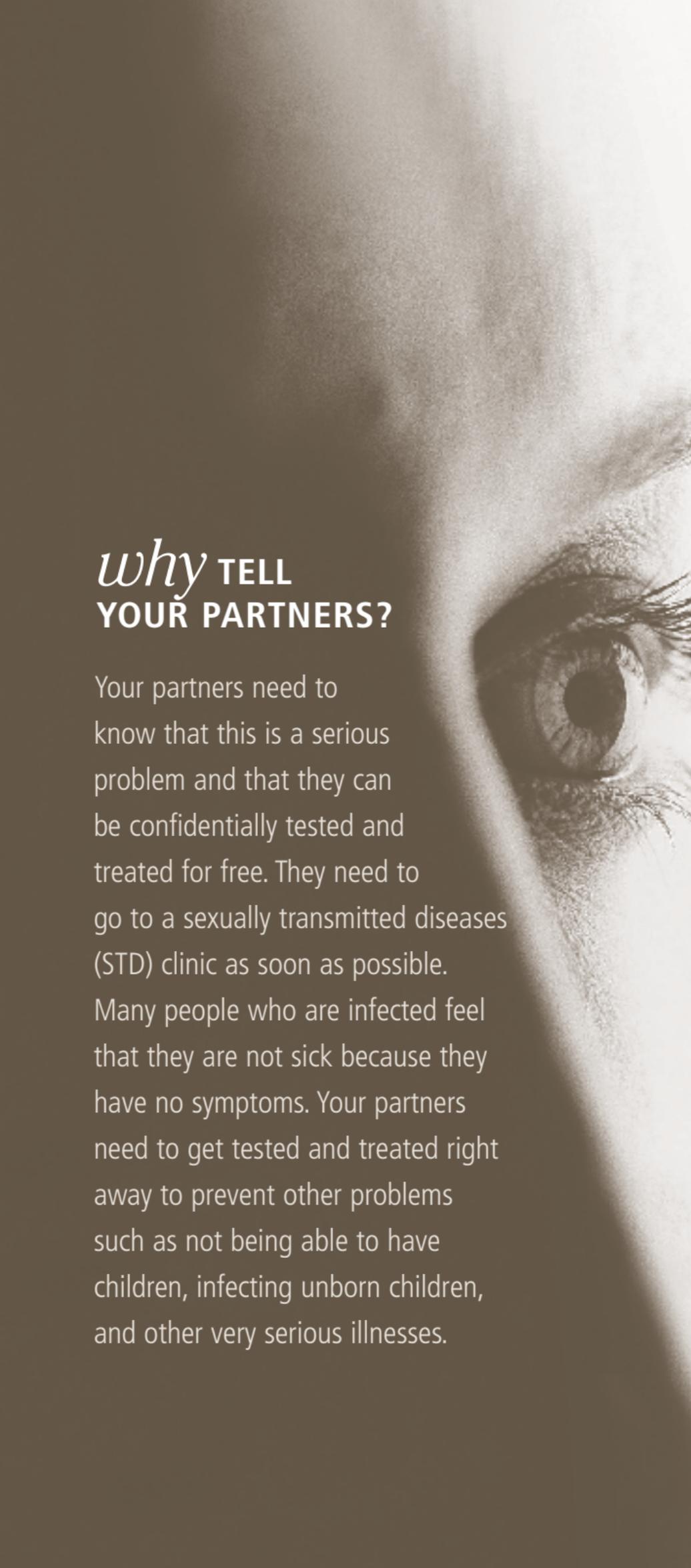
Notifying your partners
about *exposure* to
STDs & HIV





WHAT IS PARTNER NOTIFICATION?

Partner notification is a way of telling people that they have had sex with someone infected with STDs including HIV. A disease intervention specialist (DIS) will let your partners know that they might have STDs without using your name. Partners need to know so they won't get infected, become sick, or infect other people.

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a person's eye, looking directly at the camera. The eye is the central focus, with the iris and pupil clearly visible. The surrounding skin and eyelashes are in soft focus, creating a dramatic and intimate atmosphere. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture of the skin and the intensity of the gaze.

why TELL
YOUR PARTNERS?

Your partners need to know that this is a serious problem and that they can be confidentially tested and treated for free. They need to go to a sexually transmitted diseases (STD) clinic as soon as possible.

Many people who are infected feel that they are not sick because they have no symptoms. Your partners need to get tested and treated right away to prevent other problems such as not being able to have children, infecting unborn children, and other very serious illnesses.

Partner Notification Services: Important Actions You Should Take

If you have an STD, contact the STD Control Program. You or your medical provider can call the STD Control Program for partner notification assistance from a Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS). They are trained to tell your partners that they may have STDs. The DIS will never tell your partners anything about you. They will help make sure your partners are tested and treated.

The DIS will talk with you about your infection and answer any questions you have. Partner notification will be offered as a service that protects your identity. Information to help identify and locate partners will be discussed. Anyone you've had sex with should be tested and treated. Remember that many of the STDs have no symptoms. The only way to be sure your partners are okay is for them to go to the clinic and get checked out.

Protect yourself and your partners.

- Wait until you and your partners have been treated before having sex again. People can pass a disease back and forth by having sex before they have finished all of the medication.
- STDs get from one person to another through sex. The only sure way to prevent STDs is to not have sex.
- If you have sex, you should use latex condoms every time. When used the right way, condoms can help protect you from STDs including HIV. Be sure to put the condom on before the penis touches the vagina, mouth or anus.
- Limit your number of partners.
- Reduce the use of alcohol and drugs because they can cause you to make bad choices about sex.

Call for help. We know it's hard to tell your partners, but they need to know. Please call the STD Control Program at **(860) 509-7920** today and ask to speak with a DIS. We can help!

If you have HIV, learn how the STD Control Program can help you. The STD Control Program employs DIS, a group of people trained to help those infected with HIV as well as their partners. A DIS will help tell your sex or needle-sharing partners that they have been exposed to HIV. All information discussed will remain confidential. The DIS will notify your at-risk partners without revealing anything about you. Your partners will get the information they need about HIV. If they want to be tested, the DIS can help them get free testing.

- A DIS can be with you when you tell your partners. If you don't want to face your partners alone, the DIS can be there to help you.
- If you want to tell your partners by yourself, a DIS can help you practice how to tell them. The DIS can go over the facts about HIV with you and help answer any questions your partners may ask.

Call the STD Control Program to help you tell your partners. A DIS can help your partners get free tests to determine if they have HIV and help them get early medical care. A DIS can also teach your partners how to protect themselves and others from HIV and refer them for free testing and treatment for STDs. Call today to speak with a DIS at **(860) 509-7920**.

STD Control Program (including HIV) Partner Notification Services

Ask to speak to a disease intervention
specialist (DIS) • (860) 509-7920



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