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### **April is National STD Awareness Month**

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) is pleased to announce that April is *National STD Awareness Month*.

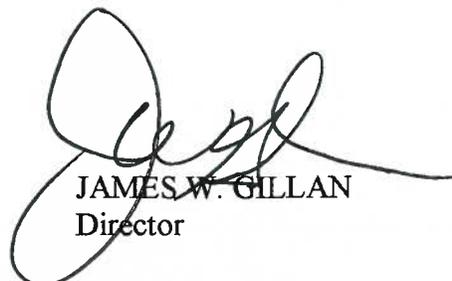
The theme for National STD Awareness Month is “Talk. Test. Treat.” The only way to avoid getting an STD is to not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex. However, if you are sexually active, or thinking of becoming sexually active, to protect your health it is important that you:

- 1) Talk openly and honestly to your partner(s) and your healthcare provider about sexual health and STDs;
- 2) Get tested. It’s the only way to know for sure if you have an STD; and,
- 3) If you test positive for an STD, work with your doctor to get the correct treatment.

Although young people ages 15–24 and men who have sex with men continue to be at greatest risk for infection, individual risk behaviors aren’t the only cause. Environmental, social, and cultural factors, including high numbers of STD cases in these populations and difficulty accessing quality health care, contribute to the higher STD burden.

Healthcare providers are encouraged to utilize CDC’s evidence-based resources to ensure that they are using the most effective methods, while also allowing them to tailor counseling messages, testing, and treatment options to their patient’s specific needs. National STD Awareness Month provides a refresher on the many ways that you can empower individuals to take charge of their sexual health (resources are available on the CDC website at: [www.cdc.gov/std/sam/2016-providers.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/std/sam/2016-providers.htm) ).

For more information about STD/HIV testing services available on Guam, contact Mr. Vince J. Aguon at 735-7166 or visit the Prutehi Hao website at [www.prutehihao.guam.gov](http://www.prutehihao.guam.gov) . To stay abreast of current news and events, “Like” the Prutehi Hao Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/prutehihao](http://www.facebook.com/prutehihao).



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