

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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San Mateo County Health System

## **Hooking Up? Get Hooked up Here for Testing during National STD Awareness Month**

*The San Mateo County Health System Encourages Youth and Young Adults to Get Tested*

**SAN MATEO, Calif.** — April is National Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Awareness Month. With the goals of increasing public awareness of STDs, and decreasing STD prevalence, the San Mateo County STD/HIV Program is promoting its STD prevention and treatment services this month by adding special STD and HIV mobile testing college sites in April. For locations, hours and dates for these clinics and the twice weekly clinics in San Mateo, please see the STD/HIV Program Web site at [www.smhealth.org/std](http://www.smhealth.org/std).

This year's STD Awareness campaign for San Mateo County, named "Hooking Up," include posters, flyers, online and text message/SMS information that highlight where and how to get **hooked up** to STD and HIV testing services. The campaign caters to young adults aged 18 to 25 whose rate of gonorrhea and Chlamydia is 11 times higher than the general population in San Mateo County (1,778 cases compared to 161 cases per 100,000 in 2008). This year's youth focus will highlight on- and off-line social networking and the ways in which youth are "hooking up" today. Posters and flyers can be found throughout the County in April and May of this year.

Many STDs are easily detected, treated and cured. Gonorrhea and Chlamydia can be detected with urine tests, but syphilis requires a blood test. Condoms protect against all three of these sexually transmitted diseases. All are curable with antibiotics.

Condoms are also highly effective in preventing the transmission of HIV. Rapid HIV testing is done using an oral swab or a blood sample, and test results are available in as little as 30 minutes. It's important to know your HIV status for your health as well as your partner's.

Below are local opportunities for you to get **hooked up** to confidential STD and HIV testing in San Mateo

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County.

- 1) The **San Mateo County STD Clinic** is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 7 p.m. The STD clinic is located in the San Mateo Medical Center's Edison Clinic at 222 West 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue in San Mateo. Although a \$20 donation is requested, no one will be turned away because of an inability to pay. The clinic phone number is (650) 573-2999.
  
- 2) The **STD/HIV Mobile Testing Van** is a mobile clinic that offers STD and/or HIV testing on demand. Testing on demand, or TOD, means that clients can call the mobile testing van counselors to arrange a time and location to meet for a test or results. The TOD phone number is (650) 619-9125.
  
- 3) **April 2009 Testing Events**
  - Wednesday, April 1, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Canada College Health Fair: Come to the health center for testing.
  
  - Thursday, April 9, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Home Depot Colma Health Fair: Look for testing vans in parking lot.
  
  - Thursday, April 16, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Menlo College: Look for testing vans by the Fireside Lounge.
  
  - Thursday, April 23, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Skyline College Health Fair: Look for testing vans in front of the cafeteria.
  
  - Wednesday, April 29, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
College of San Mateo: Look for testing vans in Lot #11.

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*The mission of the San Mateo County STD/HIV Program, founded in 1985, is to prevent STD/HIV infection and care for individuals and families affected by STD/HIV in San Mateo County. The Program provides comprehensive, community-based prevention and testing services, STD/HIV related health care, social services, advocacy, and referrals to community agencies providing drug treatment, housing, in-home care, food, dental care and other services.*