



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
1101 Market Street, Suite 1320
Philadelphia, PA 19107
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THOMAS A. FARLEY, MD, MPH
Health Commissioner

September 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Philadelphia continues to face an epidemic of sexually transmitted disease (STDs) among its teenagers. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health and the School District of Philadelphia are working together to offer students free, voluntary and confidential testing and treatment for gonorrhea and chlamydia, two of the most common infectious diseases among teenagers.

Each year, approximately 30,000 students receive an educational presentation and are offered STD testing. To date, more than 180,000 tests have been performed and 9,000 infections found, with nearly 100 percent of all infections treated. Presentations, testing, and treatment are offered at no cost to the student, parent, or School District.


During the 2018-2019 school year, we will continue to offer this successful program. Students in School District high schools will receive STD prevention education, and will be offered free and confidential testing for STDs. If a student's test result is positive, s/he will receive antibiotic treatment.

The School District of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health strongly believe that we have an obligation to do everything we can to ensure children remain healthy and free of STDs. We encourage you to take a few moments to speak with your child/children about sexuality, including the prevention and consequences of STDs. You are your child's first and most important teacher, especially when addressing these issues. If you need additional information about STDs or would like suggestions on speaking with your child about STDs, please visit the Department of Public Health's website www.TakeControlPhilly.org.

Included for your information is a sheet of Frequently Asked Questions about this program. If you have other questions, please call the School District of Philadelphia's Director of Nursing, Irene Kratz at 215-400-4920.

Sincerely,


Thomas A. Farley, MD, MPH
Health Commissioner


Natalie Mathurin, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Deputy Chief
School District of Philadelphia