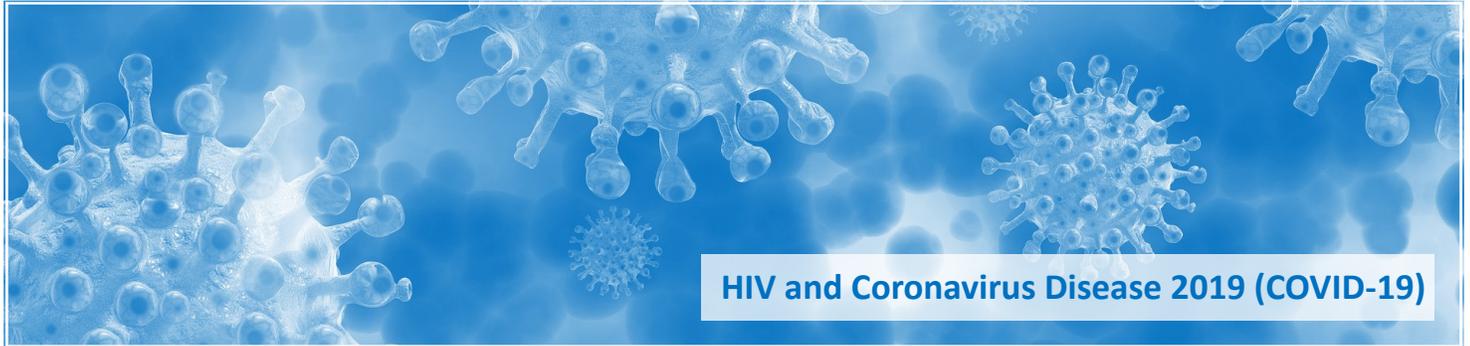


PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION



HIV Awareness & COVID-19

National HIV Testing Day

June 27th is observed as National HIV Testing Day, and in previous years our HIV/STD team would be teaming up with Walgreens Pharmacy and the “Greater Than AIDS” organization to provide free testing and educational materials at the Walgreens Pharmacy on Brady Street. While that event has been postponed, the need for HIV awareness and testing does not subside because of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are still individuals living with HIV who are unaware of their infection, and this poses additional risks while the novel coronavirus is circulating. Fortunately, people living with HIV who are aware of their status and receiving medical treatment have not been found to be more likely to contract or lose their lives to COVID-19, but those whose immune systems are compromised by HIV and have not yet begun treatment are at greater risk. Testing remains the only way to know your HIV status.

HIV Testing at SCHD

Thankfully, the Health Department is still able to operate our HIV/STD clinic by appointment, providing critical access to STD and HIV testing while relieving other local health systems from handling some of these patients. New screening and safety procedures have been developed to protect patients and staff, and patients are seen by appointment on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings similar to before the response to COVID-19 began. We are grateful for the flexibility and determination of our staff to continue providing these services and prevent new outbreaks of HIV, Syphilis, and other sexually transmitted infections in the time of COVID-19.



OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department promotes, protects, and preserves health through leadership, services, education, and partnerships.

OUR VISION:

Scott County—
A safe and healthy
community.



SPECIAL EVENTS

- *Scott County Board of Health Meeting, location TBD at 12:00 PM, Thursday, June 18, 2020.*

Links

- Scott County STD Program: <https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/std>
- Scott County HIV Testing Program: <https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/hiv-testing>
- COVID-19 Resources: <https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/covid19>

Safety During COVID-19 Pandemic

A New Normal

With warmer days approaching and things slowly opening back up, it is quickly growing harder for people to stay inside and not enjoy the outdoors. With that in mind, it is even more important to maintain good health practices and to follow social distancing guidelines wherever possible. Hand washing and maintaining social distancing at 6ft will become crucially important as more people start to resume outdoor activities.

Hair Salons and Barbershops

One of the top activities on many people's lists now that the stay at home orders have been loosened is getting that overdue haircut. Getting a haircut is considered a medium to high risk activity due to the close contact and breathing that accompanies this activity, One way to lessen the risk associated with this close contact is to assure both you and your barber\beautician are wearing a mask or cloth face covering when possible.



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