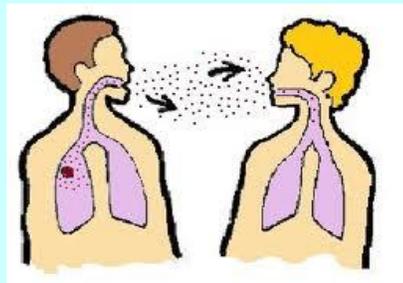


Hoke County Health Department Communicable Disease Section



Communicable Disease

Diseases that are spread from person to person are called communicable disease. These diseases include food borne illnesses, vector borne illnesses, influenza, Tuberculosis and Sexually Transmitted Infections. The health department staff helps to identify and prevent contagious diseases to help protect the public's health. The communicable disease nurse conducts surveillance and investigates communicable diseases. By working with local physicians, hospitals and labs, the nurse can track the disease and educate the public on how to prevent infection.



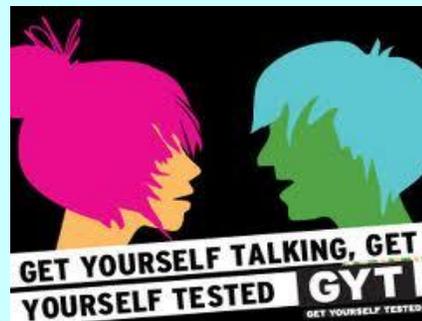
Tuberculosis (TB)

Tuberculosis is a disease caused by germs that are spread from person to person through the air. TB usually affects the lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body. TB germs are put into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs coughs, sneezes, speaks or sings. These germs can stay in the air for several hours, depending on the environment. Persons who breathe in the air containing these germs can become infected. **Symptoms of TB include: Fever, weight loss, feelings of sickness or**

weakness, night sweats, cough, chest pain, and coughing up blood. TB can be cured by taking several drugs for 6 to 12 months. It is very important that people finish the medicine and take the drugs exactly as instructed. The TB nurse will schedule a time for the TB patient to come into the clinic or make a home visit to watch the TB patient take their medications daily or several times a week. This is called Directly Observed Therapy (DOT). **TB medications are provided at no cost to all patients.**

Testing for TB

The Hoke County Health Department offers TB skin testing on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday by appointment only. The cost is \$15.00. A person must return in 48-72 hours to have a nurse evaluate the site on the arm for a reaction. If there is a reaction, the person will be given an appointment for a Chest X-Ray, which is provided at no cost to the patient by the Health Department. Through public education, screening, diagnosis, and treatment, there has been a steady decline of TB cases in North Carolina. For an appointment please call (910)-875-3717.



Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)

STD's are infections that people usually get by having sex with someone who already has an infection. STD's are common. You can get more than one STD at a time and can get the same STD more than once. Some STD's can be treated and cured with antibiotics.

Others cannot be cured.

STD's that can be treated and cured:

- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhea
- Syphilis
- Trichomoniasis
- Vaginal Infections

STD's that can be treated, but **NOT** cured:

- Genital Herpes
- Genital Warts (HPV)
- Hepatitis B
- HIV/AIDS



It is very important to seek medical care if you think you may be infected with a sexually transmitted disease. You may be at risk if you have had sexual intercourse with anyone who has had other sexual partners. If the STD is left untreated, it can:

- Be painful and make you very sick
- Make it hard for a woman to get pregnant when she wants to
- Make it hard for a man to father a child
- Cause birth defects or other health problems for a newborn.

STD screenings are FREE to all patients and are available at the Hoke County Health Department Monday through Friday by appointment, and by a walk in basis under certain circumstances.

Please call (910)-875-3717 to schedule an appointment.



HIV/AIDS

The Health Department provides education, counseling and testing for HIV. With early diagnosis, medical care can begin sooner and help you live a longer, healthier life.

HIV testing is available Monday through Friday and is free of charge.

Early knowledge of HIV infection is critical to control its spread. Those who do not know they are HIV positive continue risky behaviors and increase the chance of disease transmission to others. The decision to find out if you have HIV is a smart one.

If you are sexually active, one lifetime partner is the best. Latex condoms, although not 100% reliable, are very effective in preventing these diseases if used correctly and consistently.

For more information, contact the Hoke County Health Department at

(910)-875-3717 ext. 2173.