

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

April 15, 2025

**Los Angeles County Sexually Transmitted Infections Awareness Week and Month Proclamation**

Over the past several years, Los Angeles County has observed a steep rise in sexually transmitted infections (STIs). In 2023, DPH identified almost 90,000 cases of STIs. Chlamydia accounted for 60% of reported cases in the County, followed by gonorrhea, and syphilis. Noteworthy however, is that congenital syphilis had the highest rate increase. Congenital syphilis is syphilis that is transmitted from the mother to fetus during pregnancy, and can result in a variety of complications, such as preterm birth, miscarriage, stillbirth, and serious birth defects in infants. In 2023, Latinos represented 63% of all congenital syphilis birthing parents, followed by Blacks, Whites and other racial/ethnic groups in the County. Meanwhile, gonorrhea rates are highest among Black males and females, while chlamydia is higher among females.

Although STIs are preventable and curable, they can lead to serious health issues if left untreated. Early syphilis if left untreated can lead to damage to the brain, nerves, eyes, or heart, and is a risk factor for HIV. Gonorrhea if left untreated can lead to infertility in men and women and is also a risk factor for HIV. Meanwhile, chlamydia can result in epididymitis in men and pelvic inflammatory disease in women, and

**MOTION**

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Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
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infertility in women in serious cases. DPH has been engaged in efforts to improve the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of STIs throughout the County, and this has contributed to slight decline of 13-15% in year-to-date rates of STIs. However, to fully address the rates of STIs throughout the County requires a whole-of-community approach to help eliminate stigma, fear, and discrimination among individuals with STIs. Additionally, it is critical to continue to raise awareness of the ways in which County residents can prevent, get tested, and receive treatment for STIs.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim April 13-19, 2025, as STI Awareness Week, and April 2025 as STI Awareness month in Los Angeles County, to raise awareness about STIs, reduce stigma, fear, and discrimination, and ensure residents have necessary tools and information for the prevention, testing, and treatment of STIs.
2. Encourage County departments, residents, providers and organizations to engage in activities that promote awareness of STIs.

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HLS:jgd