



**North Georgia Health District**  
Harold W. Pitts, M.D., J.D.  
*District Health Director*  
100 West Walnut Ave., Suite 92  
Dalton, GA 30720  
[www.nghd.org](http://www.nghd.org)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Contact: Jennifer Moorer, *District PIO*  
Phone: (706) 272-2125, ext. 346  
Cell: (706) 280-9115  
Fax: (706) 272-2221  
Email: [jamoorer@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:jamoorer@dhr.state.ga.us)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Health officials urge public: Get Yourself Tested for STDs

DALTON (GA) APRIL 2, 2010 — April is STD Awareness Month, an annual observance to raise public awareness about the impact of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) on the lives of Americans. The North Georgia Health District, comprised of Cherokee, Fannin, Gilmer, Murray, Pickens and Whitfield Counties, stresses the importance of individuals discussing sexual health with their health care providers and, if sexually active, with their partners.

More importantly, officials are urging these individuals to **get tested for STDs**.

STDs are a major public health issue in the United States. CDC estimates that there are approximately 19 million new cases of STDs in the U.S. each year, almost half of them among young people ages 15 to 24.

Many of those who are infected do not know it because many STDs do not have any symptoms. The only way a person can know for sure whether he or she has an STD is to get tested.

Throughout the month of April, the North Georgia Health District is spreading the word on the prevention of STDs and highlighting the various impacts of STDs.

STDs are preventable and treatable. Building awareness will help prevent the spread of STDs in communities.

Getting tested is the best way to overcome the health challenges presented by STDs.

Contact your private healthcare provider or local county health department for more information on STDs, or log onto [www.nghd.org](http://www.nghd.org) or [www.GYTnow.org](http://www.GYTnow.org).

###

*Cherokee: Canton (770) 345-7371 / Woodstock (770) 928-0133      Gilmer (706) 635-4363      Pickens (706) 253-2821*

*Fannin (706) 632-3023      Murray (706) 695-4585      Whitfield (706) 279-9600*