

PRESS RELEASE

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STI'S On The Rise- Love Safely, Wrap It Up And Get Tested

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MAKE IT A MINDFUL MONDAY

Start Valentine's Week with a wise choice.
Know your status, **Protect your love,**
Protect your Health.

**STI TESTING = SELF-CARE + CARE
FOR YOUR PARTNER**

**GET TESTED, BE WISE, RESPONSIBLE
AND PROTECTED**

**LOVE MINDFULLY
GET TESTED!**



The Ministry of Health and Social Development has reported that there is a rise in sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) cases in the Territory and is encouraging the community to love safely, wrap it up and get tested in preparation for Valentine's Day.

Public Health Officer, Ms. Renee Leonard said with the rise in STI cases, the ministry is educating the public about what is happening and how they can be protected.

According to Ms. Leonard, Valentine's Day is another good opportunity to continue the "wrap it up" message because it is considered to be the "day of love".

"The week-long initiative is designed to share information, heighten STI awareness, promote testing and illustrate to the community their responsibility to love safely," Ms. Leonard said.

The Ministry of Health has partnered with Eureka Medical and Sapphire Health in an effort to promote testing and is offering special Valentine's Day deals for persons who would like to know their sexual health status.

"We want to thank our partners for coming on board with this very important initiative because knowing one's sexual health status is key in reducing the spread of STI's throughout the Territory," the public health officer stated.

She added, "We encourage everyone to pay attention to the information, heed the advice and take ownership over your sexual health. Be faithful to one faith partner, use barrier contraceptives and know your status and enjoy your day of love responsibly," Ms. Leonard advised.

As part of the one week informational campaign, the February edition of the Ministry of Health's newsletter with vital information about STIs will be available to the public. Other information will be sent out via brochures, flyers, radio ads and a GIS radio report to be aired this week.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of the people of the Virgin Islands.