



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO OFFER FREE PREGNANCY TESTING SERVICES

**New Offering Available to Washtenaw County Residents Regardless of Income;
Complements *Plan First!* Family Planning and STD Screening Services**

YPSILANTI, Mich., May 15, 2007—Washtenaw County Public Health Department officials today announced the Health Department will begin offering free pregnancy testing to Washtenaw County residents, regardless of income, starting May 23 at its Adult Clinic at 555 Towner Street in Ypsilanti. Testing will be available on a walk-in basis every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m.-to-12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m.-to-4 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Women who are pregnant, and meet specified income guidelines, will be offered a variety of county maternal and infant health care services designed to ensure the pre- and post-natal health of themselves and their infants. Women who are not pregnant, and meet specified income guidelines, will be offered free family planning and confidential sexually transmitted disease (STD) screening services through the Michigan *Plan First!* program.

“A woman’s pregnancy status is one of the most important pieces of health information she can possess,” said Susan Gialanella, Director of Nursing at the Washtenaw County Public Health Department. “It has numerous implications regarding the prenatal care necessary to ensure the health of the mother and infant during a pregnancy. That’s why we want to make it as easy as possible for women to be tested and, if they require them, get the support services they need. Women who take care of themselves before, during and after a pregnancy give their babies the best chance for a healthy start.”

***Plan First!* Family Planning Services**

Plan First! is a statewide program that provides funding for family planning assistance to women—ages 19-to-44—who otherwise would not have medical coverage for these services. *Plan First!* includes screening tests to help identify serious health problems sooner, like low blood iron, high blood pressure and infections. Coverage for abortions and infertility are not covered under this program.

Fax: (734) 544-6706
Communicable Disease

Fax: (734) 544-6704
Administration

Fax: (734) 544-6705
Public Health

HEARING IMPAIRED: (734) 994-1733

WEB ADDRESSES: <http://www.ewashtenaw.org>

<http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>



More specifically, *Plan First!* covers:

- Office visits for family planning-related services
- Prescriptions for birth control
- Contraceptive (birth control) supplies and devices, including free condoms
- Lab tests
- Treatment of sexually transmitted infections
- Some sterilizations for women 21 years and older

Plan First! will provide services to women who:

- Are age 19 through 44 years old
- Are U.S. citizens or qualified immigrants
- Are Michigan residents
- Meet monthly family income limits
- Have a Social Security number or have applied for one
- Are not receiving Medicaid

“Every woman is entitled to be in control of her reproductive health,” said Cathleen Wilczynski, Program Supervisor/Nurse Practitioner at the Washtenaw County Public Health Department. “We feel strongly that financial resources should never compromise a woman’s health nor her decision about when to have a baby. If a woman qualifies for *Plan First!*, and she is concerned about a reproductive health or family planning issue, we’re here to help.”

Washtenaw County Websites and Phone Numbers

- **Washtenaw County Public Health Department General Information:**
(734) 544-6700
<http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>
- **Family Planning/STD Screening Services:**
(734) 544-6840
http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/whp_family_planning.

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