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For Immediate Release **Contact:**

October 5, 2018 Contact Name

Contact Organization

Contact Phone

PRESS RELEASE Contact Email

**(Name of your health department/ organization) Celebrates Sixth Annual National Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) Recognition Day**

*Annual Recognition Day Honors this Unique Public Health Workforce*

(City, state) – Today, (name of your health department/organization), along with health departments across the country, honors the fifth annual National Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) Recognition Day. Celebrated each year on the first Friday of October, National DIS Recognition Day honors the DIS workforce that is the backbone of all STD and HIV health department programs.

DIS are public health warriors, and play an imperative role in intervening to halt the transmission of STD, HIV and other communicable diseases in the communities they serve. They track disease spread, reach varied populations, and link patients to STD testing, treatment, PrEP and HIV care. The following DIS infographic, [*Sexually Transmitted Disease Contract Tracing*](http://www.ncsddc.org/resource/sexually-transmitted-disease-std-contact-tracing-infographic-2/)helps explain the critical work of DIS in STD prevention and is an easy visual to show the hard boots-on-the-ground work done by DIS across the county.

DIS complete an extensive training course sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which provides a strong foundation for field investigation techniques, making their skill set essential to containing disease outbreaks beyond STDs such as H1N1, influenza, e-coli, and Ebola.

(Quote from your State Health Official, STD Director or other appropriate official here. Tailor the quote to your jurisdiction—why are DIS important to your program? What do DIS functions fulfill that no one else can?)

To honor DIS on DIS Recognition Day, (our department/organization) will be (How will you be honoring DIS on DIS Recognition Day? What activities did you do last year to honor DIS? Need ideas, visit www.ncsddc.org/DIS)

This annual day of recognition will be celebrated across the country. To view more information about DIS and how other STD programs honored DIS in past years, please visit the [DIS Recognition Page](http://www.ncsddc.org/event/2018-dis-recognition-day/) of the National Coalition of STD Directors. You can also join the conversation today on Social Media using #DISDay2018.

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*(Tag line for your health department.)*