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For Immediate Release **Contact:**

October 4, 2019 Contact Name

 Contact Organization

 Contact Phone

PRESS RELEASE Contact Email

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

*Annual Recognition Day Honors this Essential Public Health Workforce*

(City, state) – Today, (name of your health department/organization), along with health departments across the country, honors the eighth 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. [This infographic](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 are a highly trained workforce, completing an extensive training course sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Their skill set is essential to containing a number of disease outbreaks beyond STDs such as influenza, e-coli, zika, Ebola, and more.

(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/2019-dis-recognition-day/) of the National Coalition of STD Directors. You can also join the conversation today on Social Media using #DISDay2019.

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*(Tag line for your health department.)*