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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Health to Begin STD Testing in Republic**

Beginning Friday, Feb. 3, 2012, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department will begin offering STD testing services at its Republic WIC clinic.

These services are offered at Springfield locations but are being expanded to better service the area population. The need for testing and treatment services continues to be felt. As an example, the health department saw a five-fold spike in gonorrheal infections last fall. Overall in 2011, the department tested more than 200 people a month on average, and treated approximately 30 people each month for infections.

The Republic WIC (Women, Infants & Children) clinic is located at 937 E. Lindsey St., and can be reached at (417) 732-1439. The Republic clinic will close when Republic schools cancel classes due to inclement weather.

Testing for sexually transmitted diseases will be conducted in Republic on Fridays only, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on a first-come, first-served basis. The health department will offer the same confidential and no-cost STD testing services that are available in its Springfield offices. Tests are available for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, and HIV. Express testing is available for clients who do not have symptoms. For express testing, laboratory personnel will collect a urine specimen for chlamydia and gonorrhea, or a blood specimen for HIV and syphilis. After 10 days, a patient may return to the clinic for results or they may contact an STD nurse for their results.

More information on the tests available and pre-testing guidelines can be found online at: [www.springfieldmo.gov/health/std.html](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/health/std.html), or by calling (417) 864-1672.

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