

**News Release**

24 November 2008

**Testing Time for Teams Tonight!**

**Interviews and photocall with sports players:**

**Date: TONIGHT** Monday 24 November 6.15pm

**Venue:** Sports grounds, 40 Manor Road, Oadby, LE2 2LL

**Contact:** Joanna Petersen 07826 858435 Press officer for NHS Leicester City

Leicester University's sports teams are getting prepared for a testing event – literally. Around a hundred players will be able to self-test for the sexually transmitted infection Chlamydia at a screening programme during tonight's sports training.

University of Leicester sports society president Phil Dixon said: "As a sportsman, my health is so important to me, and that includes my sexual health. I can't play my best if my health isn't up to scratch.

"The test is really quick and easy and it's really nothing compared to the peace of mind you get knowing that you're in the clear."

NHS Leicester City is supporting the evening by giving money for sports equipment and the more tests they get back from students, the more cash the university teams will get.

Ebrahim Vorajee, sexual health specialist at NHS Leicester City said: "This is a great opportunity for students to get tested. It's crucial to have the test because if it's left untreated it can lead to infertility in both men and women."

"People who have Chlamydia can't tell that they have it. Chlamydia is easily treatable with a specific course of antibiotics."

Johanna Rigden, welfare and international officer at the university, said:

“We’ve worked closely with NHS Leicester City and are really happy that they’re supporting us in improving students’ health.

“This is a great promotion for the sexual health week we’re hosting next week, and to show students that’s it’s both essential and straightforward to take care of your health.”

**Turn up and get tested at the following bu:**

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| <b>24 November</b> | The Trade and Dating Flirt tag night at the Dove and Castle pub on Dover Street |
| <b>26 November</b> | The Trade club night at Karaoke, The Village pub                                |
| <b>27 November</b> | De Montfort, Charles Frears campus, off London Road                             |
| <b>01 December</b> | UOL sexual health week, presence at University of Leicester                     |

**Notes to editors**

Young people are more likely to take risks with their sexual behaviour and contract a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STIs). One in ten young people aged between 16 and 25 who are sexually active have Chlamydia.

If left untreated Chlamydia can lead to infertility in women and in men and can lead to an unusual discharge from the penis and painful urination. Chlamydia is most common among sexually active 16-25 year olds and it often shows no symptoms.

Chlamydia can only be detected by taking a test. Self tests are available for free across the city at various places including GUM, contraceptive services, some GP practices and some youth centres. Treatment is also free and usually involves a short course of antibiotics.

The Chlamydia Screening office is at St Peter’s Health Centre, Sparkenhoe Street, Leicester. Contact: 0116 295 7822.

GU Medicine: Leicester Royal Infirmary, Jarvis Building, Leicester. Contact: 0116 258 5208

**About NHS Leicester City**

NHS Leicester City’s overall objective is to meet the health needs of the people of Leicester within the available resources. It is accountable for a

budget of approximately £470 million, and serves a population of more than 340,000 people.

Within its remit, the Trust is responsible for engaging with the local population to improve health and well-being; commissioning a comprehensive range of high quality health services; directly providing health services where this is most appropriate, and ensuring that it gets best value for taxpayer's money.