

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
MAYOR STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE



**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Statement From Interim Commissioner Farrow On Passage Of HB 162 – Expedited Partner Therapy Pilot Program – Extension**

“I want to sincerely thank the Maryland General Assembly for passing and Gov. Martin O’Malley for signing legislation this week extending the termination date of the city Health Department’s Expedited Partner Therapy Pilot Program to June 30, 2015. A law authorizing the three-year-old program was set to end June 30, 2010.

The Baltimore City Health Department’s Expedited Partner Therapy Pilot Program allows individuals with chlamydia or gonorrhea to distribute antibiotics to up to three sexual partners without a prescription for their partners and without the health care provider first examining the partners. Currently, Expedited Partner Therapy in Maryland is only permitted in Baltimore City Health Department clinics.

A recent review of the program by the Health Department’s Office of Epidemiology and Planning found that clients participating in the Expedited Partner Therapy Pilot Program were 39% less likely to be re-infected than a comparable group of clients seen in the 18 months prior to the start of the program. Expedited Partner Therapy is an effective tool for reducing STD prevalence in Baltimore City, and we are happy to be able to continue providing this service to our clients.”

For more information about the Expedited Partner Therapy programs, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/std/EPT/default.htm>.

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### **MEDIA NOTE:**

Emily J. Erbeling, MD, MPH, oversees the Health Department’s EPT program and is available for interviews today.