May 12, 2020

Dear Provider:

We can only imagine the challenges you and your practice have faced in the last two months. While we are all working to stop the spread of COVID-19, we need your help to prevent additional disease outbreaks. We want to give you the guidance and support you need to provide optimal STD/HIV care.

**STI clinical guidance during COVID-19**

- [Washington State Department of Health (DOH)](https://www.doh.wa.gov) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)](https://www.cdc.gov) issued guidance on adapting your practice while the need for social distancing continues.
- If your clinical services have not been disrupted, continue to follow the recommendations in [2015 STD treatment guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/index.htm) and [2020 providing quality STD clinical services](https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2020/index.htm). Use appropriate precautions to prevent COVID-19 transmission to patients and providers (see [CDC guidance for healthcare providers](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/healthcare-settings.html)).
- If your services rely on telemedicine, [presumptive oral medication treatment](https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2020/index.htm) is acceptable for uncomplicated symptomatic infections and exposures. Advise patients treated presumptively to get tested as soon as practical and seek further care if symptoms persist.
- Consider referring patients to at-home self-collection testing services.
- Provide [expedited partner therapy](https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2020/index.htm) (EPT) to partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea. You can prescribe to patients or their partners. EPT medications are covered by health insurance.
- Refer uninsured and underinsured patients to [our STD/HIV clinic](https://www.tpchd.org/services/hiv) for testing, treatment and EPT.
- Review [our guidance on testing for neurosyphilis and ocular syphilis](https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2020/index.htm).
- Continue to [report lab-confirmed cases](https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2020/index.htm) of HIV and STDs.
- Sign up to receive our [health news and alerts](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/email-sign-up.html).

**Survey**

- Consider completing [this brief survey](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/email-sign-up.html) about your clinical STD/HIV practices and challenges. It will help us best support you as we navigate this new landscape together.

**More resources**

- Health and Human Services guidance on [COVID-19 and people living with HIV](https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/).  

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out. We are here to support you.

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