



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

November 20, 2020

Dear Colleague,

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have seen the challenges faced by local health to maintain essential services for HIV/STD. While focus is appropriately given to COVID-19 efforts, it is also critically important that increases in local morbidity be addressed.

There is currently an alarming state-wide increase in gonorrhea; we are also seeing increases in reported cases of syphilis and HIV. We understand that services provided by HIV/STD programs continue to evolve; DHSP program staff are available to provide information and guidance during these difficult times. To assist DHSP in responding to morbidity trends and clinical service capacity, it is important we are aware of any changes to local health department program operations and ask for the following:

- Please notify us with any change to program operations including available services, hours of operation, and key staff changes. All HIV Prevention and Ryan White questions should be directed to Dawn Lukomski at lukomskid@michigan.gov or 517/512-3826 and STD questions directed to Kris Tuinier at tuinierk@michigan.gov or 517/331-5887.
- Ensure that you have a plan in place for individuals who may require HIV and STD testing or treatment during this time. This can be done via referral; it is essential to coordinate with your neighboring health departments and community partners to verify what services are available.
- Communicate HIV/STD Program changes to clients via a variety of different methods including a sign on the door, voicemail, and updates on any social media sites or the local health department website.
- At this time, we are asking that you prioritize testing and treatment for HIV and STD positive cases and their partners to prevent new transmissions. Utilizing prescriptions may be key to accomplishing this, but if you need help, please reach out to us. CDC and MDHHS guidance on providing clinical service during COVID-19 can be found at [Michigan.gov/hivstd](https://www.michigan.gov/hivstd).
- Partner services for HIV infections should continue. If you need assistance carrying out this essential service, please reach out to Kris Tuinier and she will connect you to local or MDHHS Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) staff that may be available to help.

Katie Macomber, MPH

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