

Michigan Health Alert Network Message

There is a current shortage of STD test kits and laboratory supplies, most notably for chlamydia and gonorrhea nucleic acid amplification tests (CT/GC NAAT). The shortage affects multiple diagnostic companies, public health and commercial laboratories, and impacts several components of the STD specimen collection and testing process. CDC is working with state, local, and territorial STD programs, the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) and other laboratories, manufacturers of STD diagnostic supplies, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to understand the scope of the shortages and determine possible solutions.

CDC recently issued a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) offering guidance to prevention programs and clinical providers on approaches to prioritizing chlamydial and gonococcal testing when STD diagnostic test kits are in short supply ([Sept 8th DCL](#)). The goal of this guidance is to maximize the number of infected individuals identified and treated, while prioritizing individuals most likely to experience complications. Since the magnitude of the STD diagnostic test shortages is likely to differ across healthcare settings, the potential approaches listed in the DCL should be tailored to current circumstances. The diagnostic strategies in this document pertain primarily to chlamydial and gonococcal testing. HIV and syphilis testing should continue to be performed per the [CDC's 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines](#).

On April 6th, CDC issued a [DCL](#) to provide guidance for clinical management of STDs in jurisdictions experiencing disruption in services. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Division of HIV and STD Programs concurs with this guidance. Additionally, MDHHS has temporarily expanded our recommendations on the use of Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT). While EPT has always been approved for use in all cases of chlamydia, as well as uncomplicated gonorrhea in heterosexuals, expanded approval includes individuals diagnosed with *T. vaginalis* (trichomoniasis) and for men who have sex with men (MSM) diagnosed with uncomplicated gonorrhea ([April 15th MDHHS DCL](#)). EPT is a scientifically proven effective intervention that increases the number of partners who are treated for their STD exposure, reduces reinfection of index patients, and is cost effective.

If you have questions regarding management of STDs, please contact Amy Peterson, STD Interventions Unit Manager at 313-456-4425 or Petersona7@michigan.gov.