



January 6, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you “[Prevention of HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STDs, and TB Through Health Care: Supporting Health Departments—Next Steps](#).” This document is a result of the information gained during the August 2011 consultation, “Prevention Through Health Care: Enhancing Health Departments’ Preparedness and Response.” Since this time, we have worked with partners to use the information shared to develop a concept plan and identify opportunities to assist in strategy development. The document provided here provides a brief proposal for “next steps” to help state and local health departments navigate anticipated changes in the nation’s health care system, specifically as it relates to the programs of CDC’s National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention.

I would like to thank all of the participating leaders from state and local health departments, from national organizations, federal partners (e.g., Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Health Resources and Services Administration), and the academic community for working collaboratively during the consultation to identify and strategize on how to address the 4 identified drivers of change in health care: 1) investment in health information technology; 2) increasing role of private sector providers; 3) expansion of community health centers; and 4) expansion of Medicaid coverage (and new agency focus). Each of these can have a profound, but positive affect on public health practice.

As we move forward, I encourage us to keep open channels of communication and ongoing feedback as to progress made and challenges faced. We have much to do to ensure public health and health care work together closely to do all we can to protect health and prevent disease for all people in the United States. I look forward to continuing our work together to improve and strengthen our efforts.

Sincerely,

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