



Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the release of our updated [Toolkit for Technology-based STD and HIV Partner Services](#). With this updated resource, health departments, community-based organizations, and others authorized to provide HIV/STD partner services can continue or improve their use of technology to reach persons potentially exposed to STDs, including HIV.

Technology is increasingly an important tool for public health activities. We continue to encourage the field to adopt and adapt current technologies for public health efforts, like contact tracing and partner notification.

This updated toolkit provides additional information about how to use mobile apps for partner notification, including information about how to conduct partner services using text messages. It also contains updated, real-world examples for technology-based partner services strategies, including e-mails, sample networking app profiles, as well as processes and protocols. The [Data Security & Confidentiality](#) section includes samples of confidentiality policies and agreements, to assure that digital information, like screen names and email addresses, are held to the same level of security and confidentiality as first and last names.

The [updated webpage for the toolkit](#) also points to related resources from CDC and other partners.

The current COVID-19 outbreak reminds us that technology can be effective for reaching those at risk while protecting the health of our workforce. Similar to past public health outbreak responses such as Ebola and Zika, contact tracing and notification continues to be one of the most effective ways to stem transmission of a contagious virus.

For questions about any of our new technology efforts, or for technical assistance please contact Frank Strona with DSTDP's Using Technology to Advance STD Prevention (UTASP) at [rhs3@cdc.gov](mailto:rhs3@cdc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Bolan".

Gail Bolan, MD  
Director, Division of STD Prevention