Dear Colleagues,

I hope this letter finds you well, and that you have been enjoying the extra hours of daylight that summer brings. CDC staff are gearing up for the release of our annual STD Surveillance Report, strengthening our response to the resurgence of congenital syphilis, evaluating new approaches to reducing syphilis among MSM, and continuing work with grantees on capacity building to monitor and more rapidly detect and respond to drug-resistant gonorrhea. We are also busy collaborating on the Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) Certification Program with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, and the Public Health Accreditation Board. For now, though, I am pleased to highlight some resources that have been developed in the past few months that may help with your prevention efforts.

This April, when CDC and partners observed STD Awareness Month, we focused on a theme of *Syphilis Strikes Back*. Our objective was to bring attention to the dangerous resurgence of syphilis—a topic that was covered in several news articles and on social media. The awareness month concluded with DSTDP issuing *Let’s Work Together to Stem the Tide of Rising Syphilis in the United States*, a call to action for communities impacted by the disease and other groups who have the power to reduce the burden of infection through research, treatment, and outreach. Last month, I penned an article for *Medscape* addressing the nationwide syphilis increases and outlining specific actions clinicians can take to make a difference. CDC also released a short video that walks healthcare providers through the three key actions they can take to help reverse rising syphilis rates: Talk, Test, and Treat.

The emerging threat of drug-resistant gonorrhea continues to be a concern. CDC recently released its report *Antibiotic Use in the United States, 2017: Progress and Opportunities*, which includes a fact sheet titled *Improving Antibiotic Use to Treat Gonorrhea*. Additionally, we developed a video that illustrates gonorrhea’s history of overpowering the drugs used to treat it and why we can’t allow it to become untreatable. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on this topic, please consider subscribing to our drug-resistant gonorrhea mailing list. Visit [https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/arg](https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/arg) then enter your email address in the “Get Email Updates” box.
Each year, DSTDP staff field hundreds of inquiries from concerned individuals about STDs. Understanding the most common concerns and frequently asked questions has shaped our materials development process. Most recently, this led to a new CDC fact sheet: Just Diagnosed? Next Steps After Testing Positive for Gonorrhea or Chlamydia. Our STD testing widgets are good online companion pieces for this fact sheet. These widgets are top performers on the DSTDP website, and allow visitors to enter their ZIP code and find STD testing locations near them.

I encourage you to use and share these resources. These articles, videos, fact sheets, and widgets were created with you in mind. Please share via social media and on your websites, or use them as discussion pieces when talking to concerned citizens and decision makers. You can also keep up with newly-developed resources by visiting www.cdc.gov/std and clicking the “Resource Spotlight” tab.

Finally, we are about a year away from the 2018 STD Prevention Conference, to be held in Washington, DC from August 27-30, 2018. The American Sexual Health Association, American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association, National Coalition of STD Directors, Pan American Health Organization, Public Health Agency of Canada, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are enthusiastically planning a rich and robust conference. We hope to see you there! Thank you for your commitment to STD prevention.

Best Regards,

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