



March 18, 2011

Dear Colleague,

April is STD Awareness Month, an annual observance to raise public awareness about the impact of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) on the lives of Americans and the importance of discussing sexual health with healthcare providers and sex partners. This letter summarizes CDC activities and resources that we hope will complement and support your local activities.

### **CDC's Public Health Grand Rounds on Chlamydia**

The Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) participated in a series of presentations for the [CDC Public Health Grand Rounds on Chlamydia](#) last May. A forthcoming article in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR) will reprise these presentations.

### **The GYT: Get Yourself Tested Campaign**

CDC is again partnering with MTV, the Kaiser Family Foundation, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and others to bring attention to the epidemic of STDs in the United States. This year the [GYT website](#) is offering resources for providers to help them better serve teen and young adult patients. The [GYT provider site](#) addresses young people's common STD-related misconceptions and offers simple answers to patients' questions. The website features CDC's [2010 STD Treatment Guidelines](#), reference guides and charts (e.g. STD basics, who should be tested for what, where, and when); resources for talking to patients about sexual history and STD testing; training resources; and GYT materials for your office or clinic. You are invited to a March 24th webinar to learn about this year's updates to the GYT campaign (prior [registration](#) is required).

### **National HIV and STD Testing Resources**

CDC continues to update its interactive STD and HIV testing locator on the National HIV and STD Testing Resource website [www.findSTDtest.org](http://www.findSTDtest.org). If you have not already done so, please check to be sure your clinic(s) are included in the database and that the information about them is current. Since the findSTDtest.org website will be promoted throughout April as a source for STD testing locations, we want to ensure that the information is accurate. Please contact Rachel Kachur ([rlk4@cdc.gov](mailto:rlk4@cdc.gov)) if you need assistance updating your information.

### **STD Awareness Resource Site**

CDC's [STD Awareness Resource Site](#) (formerly the STD Awareness Month website) has been updated for 2011 and provides our STD prevention partners with information and tools to support your local STD Awareness Month activities all year round. Included on this site are resources for developing STD-related health communication and social marketing campaigns. Additionally, there is a media kit that includes sample press releases, public service announcement scripts, and tips for media outreach. Widgets to

provide zip-code-based locator information for STD testing sites are available for download.

### **STD Prevention Materials**

CDC is providing approximately 5,000 GYT clinic kits to state and local health departments. These kits will arrive by the end of March to the addresses provided by those who ordered them. If you have not ordered kits or need additional kits, you can download the kit materials and additional electronic resources now at the [GYT Toolkit tab](#) on the GYT website.

CDC STD Fact Sheets are available for [download](#) and local printing and are designed to print in either black and white or in color.

The following printed materials are available for shipment to you without charge through our [online ordering page](#):

- STD “The Facts” brochure series. This award-winning series of brochures is available in English or Spanish, and is written in plain language. The brochures are available to health departments and other partners and may be ordered in quantities up to 500 per brochure. Electronic copies in PDF format can also be found on the STD Awareness Resource Site.
- *A Guide To Taking A Sexual Health History*. This practical guide is a good resource to share with healthcare providers in your community, especially if you are making them aware of STD Awareness Month activities. Five copies of this guide are included in each GYT clinic kit.
- The *2010 STD Treatment Guidelines* will be available soon for ordering in hard copy, wall chart, and pocket guide formats.

### **The Division of STD Prevention’s Twitter account**

The Twitter account [@CDCSTD](#) now has over 2,700 followers, is following more than 200 individuals and organizations, and is included in nearly 200 lists. It is now verified and listed as an official HHS Twitter account.

I look forward to hearing from you about your successes with your STD Awareness activities, not only in April, but throughout the year. Many thanks for your hard work and persistent efforts toward reducing the burden of sexually transmitted diseases on the American people.

Sincerely,

/Gail Bolan/

Gail Bolan, MD

Director, Division of STD Prevention

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention