



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
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Dear Providers,

This memo is to inform you of the new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021](#).¹ This document provides current evidence-based diagnostic, management, and treatment recommendations, and serves as a source of clinical guidance for managing sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Main STI Diagnostic, Treatment, and Management Updates for Providers

The new guidelines include notable updates from the previous 2015 guidance, including:

- Updated treatment recommendations for chlamydia, trichomoniasis, and pelvic inflammatory disease.
- Updated treatment recommendations for uncomplicated gonorrhea in neonates, children, and other specific clinical situations (e.g., proctitis, epididymitis, sexual assault), which builds on broader treatment changes published in the [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#).²
- Information on FDA-cleared diagnostic tests for *Mycoplasma genitalium* and rectal and pharyngeal chlamydia and gonorrhea.
- Expanded risk factors for syphilis testing among pregnant patients.
- Recommended two-step serologic testing for diagnosing genital herpes simplex virus.
- Harmonized recommendations for human papillomavirus vaccination with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.
- Recommended universal hepatitis C testing in alignment with [CDC's 2020 hepatitis C testing recommendations](#).³

[STIs are common and costly](#).⁴ In 2019, Alaskan providers reported 8,712 sexually transmitted infections (chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis). This ranked Alaska first in the nation for sexually transmitted chlamydia, second for gonorrhea, and sixth for syphilis. With 26 million new STIs occurring each year, totaling nearly \$16 billion in medical costs, evidence-based prevention, diagnostic, and treatment recommendations are critical to STI control efforts now more than ever.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC provided [guidance for the disruption of STD clinical services](#),⁵ focusing on syndromic management and STI screening approaches to maximize the

number of people with STIs identified and treated, while prioritizing those most likely to experience complications. However, most drug and testing kit shortages have since resolved and many health care providers are returning to normal clinical practices, which includes conducting STI evaluation and management in accordance with [CDC Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021](#).¹

Provider Resources for STIs

You can stay informed on the latest STI recommendations and clinical guidance through the following resources:

- **High-quality printable copies of the wall chart, pocket guide, and MMWR**, which are available for download now on the [STD website](#).⁶ A limited number of free copies will be available for order through [CDC-INFO On Demand](#) ⁷in the coming weeks.
- **Training and technical assistance**, which are available through the [National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers](#).⁸
- **STD clinical consultation services**, which are available through the [STD Clinical Consultation Network](#).⁹
- **Free continuing education credits (CME and CNE)**, which are available through the [National STD Curriculum](#).¹⁰
- **Recommendations for Providing Quality STD Clinical Services (or [STD QCS](#))**¹¹, which complement the STI treatment guidelines, focusing on managing clinical operations.
- **An updated STI Treatment Guidelines mobile app**, which is in development and is expected to launch in the coming months. **NOTE:** The 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines app will be retired at the end of July 2021. CDC is finalizing an interim, mobile-friendly solution – please visit [STI Treatment Guidelines \(cdc.gov\)](#) ¹² for information, as it becomes available.

You can also find additional information and resources at the DHSS website available at <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/Pages/default.aspx> .Unfortunately, due to the cyber-attack on the DHSS website, information is limited.

For questions about the updated 2021 STI Treatment Guidelines, you can email the Clinical Team in CDC’s Division of STD Prevention at stixguidelines@cdc.gov. You can also contact Nathan Wormington STD Coordinator at 907-269-8087 or email at nathan.wormington@alaska.gov.

Thank you for your commitment to improving the sexual health and wellness of people in Alaska

Sincerely,

Susan A. Jones

Susan A. Jones RN MN
HIV/STD Program Manager

Links are found here:

1. Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021
<https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/default.htm>
2. Update to CDC's Treatment Guidelines for Gonococcal Infection, 2020
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6950a6.htm?s_cid=mm6950a6_w
3. Testing Recommendations for Hepatitis C Virus Infection
<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/guidelinesc.htm>
4. Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevalence, Incidence, and Cost Estimates in the United States
<https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/prevalence-incidence-cost-2020.htm>
5. Guidance and Resources During Disruption of STD Clinical Services
<https://www.cdc.gov/std/prevention/disruptionGuidance.htm>
6. Provider Recourses on the Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021
<https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/provider-resources.htm>
7. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention INFO on Demand-Publications
<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/pubs/CDCInfoOnDemand.aspx>
8. National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers <https://www.nnptc.org/>
9. STD Clinical Consultation Network <https://www.stdccn.org/render/Public>
10. National STD Curriculum. <https://www.std.uw.edu/>
11. Recommendations for Providing Quality STD Clinical Services (STD QCS)
<https://www.cdc.gov/std/qcs/>
12. The STD Treatment Guideline, 2021 Mobile App is under construction. You will find it here in the near future: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/default.htm>