Date: August 10, 2021
Topic: Requirements for HIV and STD Testing
Contact: Preston Nguyen Tang, Health Program Specialist, Nevada Office of HIV
To: All Health Care Providers

During the 2021 Nevada Legislative session, Senate Bill 211 (SB211) was passed into law, effective July 1, 2021. This bill will require primary care providers and emergency departments to offer human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) — or sexually transmitted infections (STIs) testing to their 15-64-year-old patients. The intent of the bill is to identify cases early through increased HIV and STD screening. Additionally, the stigma surrounding HIV and STD can be reduced by normalizing testing and discussion between providers and their patients.

This is important because Nevada reports a high burden of HIV and STDs. According to the CDC’s 2019 STD Surveillance Report, Nevada ranked highest in the nation for primary and secondary syphilis (most infectious stages), with a rate of 26.6 cases per 100,000 population. Nevada ranks 4th nationally in congenital syphilis case rates, with a rate of 114.7 cases per 100,000 live births. Nevada ranks 17th in the nation in chlamydia, with a rate of 587.5 cases per 100,000 population. Gonorrhea cases continue to rise in the state, with Nevada ranking 15th in the U.S. (214.8 cases per 100,000 population).

In 2019, Nevada ranked 5th in the U.S. for new HIV diagnoses, with the highest rates of infection in the western half of the U.S. among adults and adolescents with a rate of 19.8 per 100,000 population as compared to the U.S. rate of 13.6 per 100,000. Death rate of adults and adolescents with diagnosed HIV infection in Nevada is 3.4 per 100,000. For people living with diagnosed HIV (prevalence), Nevada continues to rank highest in the western half of the U.S. with a rate 415.8 per 1000,000 population.

To help determine if a patient wishes to be tested for HIV and/or STD or if it is medically indicated, medical professionals should consult with their patients and conduct a brief sexual history in a manner that is culturally competent as well as in a language and manner that can be understood by the patient.

Supporting the HIV/STD testing recommendations of SB211, medical providers should also review AB192 which revises provisions governing the testing of pregnant persons for certain STDs.

Depending on the results of HIV/STD testing and sexual history, medical providers should treat (or preventively treat) patients who were exposed to STDs and/or tested positive for any STDs based on the most recent CDC’s STD Treatment Guidelines. Healthcare providers should prescribe or refer eligible clients for HIV preventive medication (PrEP/PEP), SB325 and PrEP and PEP Technical Bulletin (Released July 9, 2021), and refer clients to appropriate community resources for contact tracing, partner services, mental and behavioral health counseling, substance use/abuse counseling, and sexual and domestic violence support.
NRS 441 A lists currently reportable communicable diseases in Nevada. Nevada laws mandate that public health professionals, medical providers, and laboratories report all confirmed or suspected cases of communicable diseases to their local health authority within 24 hours. For more information regarding the confidential reporting process, please see the State of Nevada Confidential Morbidity Report Form.

**Recommendations and Resources**

For more information and to request public health detailing about PrEP/PEP, STD or HIV testing and reporting requirements, prenatal screening recommendations, and best practices for conducting a sexual history, please contact:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carson City Health and Human Services</th>
<th>Southern Nevada Health District</th>
<th>Washoe County Health District</th>
<th>Rural Counties</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (775) 283-7538</td>
<td>Phone: (702) 759-1381</td>
<td>Phone: (775) 328-6147</td>
<td>Phone: (702) 486-6488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ebergenheier@carson.org">ebergenheier@carson.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jhowell@washoecounty.us">jhowell@washoecounty.us</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ptang@health.nv.gov">ptang@health.nv.gov</a></td>
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Please also review and consult the CDC Sexual History Guide: https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/sexualhistory.pdf

**References**


**Questions:**

For updated guidance, please review the DPBH Technical Bulletin website and the Nevada Health Response website regularly. If you have other questions regarding Requirements for HIV and STD Testing, please email Preston Nguyen Tang at ptang@health.nv.gov or at 702-486-6488 with questions regarding the content of this Technical Bulletin.

Lisa Sherych, Administrator
Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Ihsan Azzam, Ph.D., M.D.
Chief Medical Officer