

Prioritizing STI/HIV Investigative Activities During COVID-19 Outbreak Response

Program Objective	Local COVID-19 Conditions			
	No Reported Cases/Risk Level	Isolated/Imported Cases	Limited Community Spread	Sustained or Widespread Sustained Community Spread
Ensure appropriate treatment and interview of positive syphilis or HIV in pregnant women	Normal Operations; Normal Travel; Usual Precautions	Normal Operations; Normal Travel; Usual Precautions	Normal Operations; Limited Travel; Increased Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Full Precautions
Ensure the notification, appropriate examination and prophylaxis of their partners	Normal Operations; Normal Travel; Usual Precautions	Normal Operations; Limited Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Increased Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Restricted Travel; Full Precautions
Ensure appropriate treatment and interview of positive syphilis in women 15-44 years of age	Normal Operations; Normal Travel; Usual Precautions	Normal Operations; Normal Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Increased Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Restricted Travel; Full Precautions
Ensure the notification, appropriate examination and prophylaxis of their partners	Normal Operations; Normal Travel; Usual Precautions	Normal Operations; Limited Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Increased Precautions	Essential Activities Only; Restricted Travel; Full Precautions
Ensure linkage to medical care and interview of any new diagnosis of HIV in women 15-44 years of age	Normal Operations; Normal Travel; Usual Precautions	Normal Operations; Normal Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Increased Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Restricted Travel; Full Precautions
Ensure the notification and testing of their partners	Normal Operations; Normal Travel; Usual Precautions	Normal Operations; Limited Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Increased Precautions	Essential Activities Only; Restricted Travel; Full Precautions
Ensure appropriate treatment and interview of patients diagnosed with P&S syphilis in women ≥45 or men of any age	Normal Operations; Normal Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Increased Precautions	Essential Activities Only; Restricted Travel; Full Precautions
Ensure the notification, appropriate examination and prophylaxis of their partners	Normal Operations; Normal Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Increased Precautions	Essential Activities Only; Restricted Travel; Full Precautions

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Program Objective	Local COVID-19 Conditions			
	No Reported Cases/Risk Level	Isolated/Imported Cases	Limited Community Spread	Sustained or Widespread Sustained Community Spread
Ensure linkage to medical care and interview of any new diagnosis of HIV in women ≥45 or men of any age	Normal Operations; Normal Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Increased Precautions	Essential Activities Only; Restricted Travel; Full Precautions
Ensure the notification and testing of their partners	Normal Operations; Normal Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Increased Precautions	Essential Activities Only; Restricted Travel; Full Precautions
Ensure appropriate treatment and interview of women ≥45 or men of any age with asymptomatic syphilis infection	Limited Interviewing; Normal Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Restricted Travel; Increased Precautions	Essential Activities Only; Restricted Travel; Full Precautions
Ensure the notification, appropriate examination and prophylaxis of their partners	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Restricted Travel; Increased Precautions	Essential Activities Only; Restricted Travel; Full Precautions
Conduct outreach to people previously diagnosed with HIV who may not be receiving medical care	Essential Activities Only; Limited Travel; Increased Precautions	Essential Activities Only; Limited Travel; Increased Precautions	Essential Activities Only; Restricted Travel; Increased Precautions	Essential Activities Only; Restricted Travel; Full Precautions
Ensure appropriate treatment of patients with neurologic, ophthalmologic, otic, or late clinical manifestations of syphilis infection	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Usual Precautions	Limited Interviewing; Limited Travel; Increased Precautions	Essential Activities Only; Restricted Travel; Full Precautions

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Definitions

Normal Operations: DIS should conduct their investigative activities in accordance with specific guidance provided by supervisors, the standard operating policies in the DIS Field Services Manual and the current *Interim Guidance for Community Health Workers (CHWs) Operating Under COVID-19 Outbreak Conditions in Kansas*.

Limited Interviewing: DIS should limit the scope of their investigations to confirmed or suspected cases and their partners (i.e. “Cluster Protocol”) in accordance with specific guidance provided by supervisors, the standard operating policies in the DIS Field Services Manual and the current *Interim Guidance for Community Health Workers (CHWs) Operating Under COVID-19 Outbreak Conditions in Kansas*.

Essential Activities Only: DIS must limit their investigations to gathering essential surveillance data and health information of cases (e.g. staging, treatment, demographics). When workloads allow, index patients may be interviewed by phone to elicit and record partner information, but any follow-up and referral activities for these partners must be approved by KDHE.

Normal Travel: DIS should plan and conduct their field work in accordance with specific guidance provided by supervisors, the standard operating policies in the DIS Field Services Manual and the current *Interim Guidance for Community Health Workers (CHWs) Operating Under COVID-19 Outbreak Conditions in Kansas*.

Limited Travel: DIS should avoid routine field work and limit it to activities with a high probability of achieving high-priority program objectives within desired timeframes. DIS are expected to document that other means of achieving this objective have been attempted and failed (i.e. no valid locating information other than work or home, not responding to messages, appointment no-shows, etc.). When field work is deemed necessary to achieving program objectives, it must be conducted in accordance with specific guidance provided by supervisors, the standard operating policies in the DIS Field Services Manual and the current *Interim Guidance for Community Health Workers (CHWs) Operating Under COVID-19 Outbreak Conditions in Kansas*.

Restricted Travel: DIS are not authorized to conduct field work without written authorization from the STI/HIV Surveillance and Intervention Section Chief. Any proposed field work must represent the minimum activities necessary to achieve critical program objectives within desired timeframes. DIS are expected to conduct a case review/consultation with a supervisor to ensure that every means of achieving this objective without field work has been identified, attempted and failed on multiple occasions. When field work is authorized, it must be conducted in accordance with specific guidance provided by supervisors, the standard operating policies in the DIS Field Services Manual and the current *Interim Guidance for Community Health Workers (CHWs) Operating Under COVID-19 Outbreak Conditions in Kansas*.

Usual Precautions: CHWs should assess patients for COVID-19 risk prior to meeting with them, wash hands regularly, avoid touching their faces, cough into their elbow or a tissue (then discard the tissue), increase ventilation into their workspace and disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, phones and handrails regularly.

Increased Precautions: In addition to *Usual Precautions* for limiting risk of COVID-19 exposures, DIS should also perform infection control measures after any physical interaction with a patient or other person while in the field. At a minimum, this should include hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting any devices or equipment utilized and, when supplies permit, use of a facemask for DIS and any patients transported or interviewed.

Full Precautions: DIS shall not physically interact with patients unless full recommended PPE (appropriate for the proposed activity/interaction) is available for the DIS and the DIS has completed appropriate training on the donning, use and doffing of PPE. When possible, a facemask should also be made available for the patient.