



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

April 15, 2020

Dear Colleague:

This letter is to provide information on alternative STD treatment options during the COVID-19 crisis. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division of HIV and STD Programs (MDHHS/DHSP) is committed to ensuring that STD treatment is available to our residents during these challenging times. We recognize and appreciate that our clinical partners are operating in a limited capacity to keep yourselves and your patients as safe as possible. With this in mind, we encourage you to review the attached guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), released on April 6, 2020 outlining acceptable oral therapies for sexually transmitted infections to avoid the physical contact necessary for injections.

In addition to the CDC guidance, MDHHS is temporarily expanding our recommendations on the use of Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) to include *T. vaginalis* (trichomoniasis) and EPT for men who have sex with men (MSM) diagnosed with uncomplicated gonorrhea (GC). The CDC guidance encourages 'a flexible and pragmatic approach that minimizes reductions in STD care and treatment is needed'; expanding EPT is an example. EPT is a scientifically proven effective harm reduction method and, although not gold standard for MSM, it is a tool to stem the spread of GC in the absence of comprehensive clinical assessment. We encourage you to counsel any MSM you utilize EPT for to follow-up when they are able with their healthcare provider for full multi-site STD testing, and syphilis and HIV testing.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health of your patients and communities. You may find several references on our website, including the 2015 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines, information and MDHHS Guidance on EPT, under "Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)" at – https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_2955_2982-428735--,00.html#stds.

If you have questions regarding STDs please contact Ms. Amy Peterson, STD Interventions Unit Manager, at 313-456-4425 or peterzona7@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Joneigh S. Khaldun, MD, MPH, FACEP
Chief Medical Executive
Chief Deputy Director for Health

JK:kk

Attachment