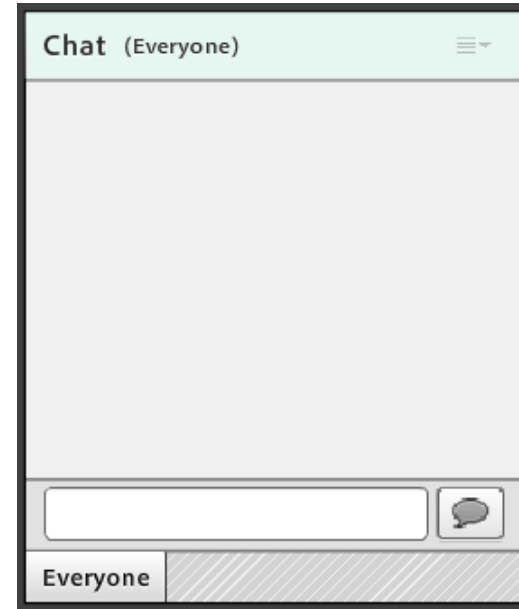


Logistics



This webinar is being recorded. The recording and presentation slides will be emailed to those that registered. These materials will also be placed on the NCSD website.

Providing Partner Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic

October 8th, 2020



NCS D
National Coalition
of STD Directors

Webinar Objectives

This webinar's goal is to explore how the following measures occur during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Notifying partners of exposure
- Ensuring partners receive necessary screening & treatment



PARTNER SERVICES IN A PANDEMIC
Office of Infectious Disease

Who am I?

Zandt Bryan

Infectious Disease Public Health Program Advisor

DOH Office of Infectious Disease

What is partner services? A revisit

Partner Services is a biomedical intervention in which we identify people who are infected or at risk and intervene in the spread of disease through delivery of medication to cure existing disease (secondary intervention) or abort incubating infection (primary intervention).

- Begin with passive HIV/STD surveillance data (lab reports and provider case reports) to conduct active surveillance for previously unidentified cases
- Interview infected/affected patients (original patient/OP, partners, others)
- Identify people at risk (partners/clusters)
- Ensure correct treatment for diagnosed infection or exposure
- Connect patients to followup care or supportive services

Case Reporting

In Washington, HIV and sexually transmitted disease cases are reportable within 3 working days.

The more rapidly cases are reported, the sooner intervention in the spread of disease can begin.

COVID-19 demands on staffing and changes to procedures can lengthen this timeline.

Getting from Diagnosis to Interview

- Laboratory capacity is affected by COVID-19
- Provider case reporting may be slowed
- Getting additional information from the provider to support partner services investigation also slowed, may require multiple calls
- Electronic medical record access is extremely helpful, but not always feasible or available

What happens after the case/lab are reported?

1. Case report is matched to laboratory report by local health department staff.
2. Case is entered into surveillance data system.
3. Case is referred to appropriate staff for followup.
4. Staff redeployment for COVID-19 response means we may not be able to reach our usual caseload.
 - P&S syphilis, women with positive serology
 - New HIV diagnoses
 - Congenital or perinatal case
 - Other cases as staff capacity permits
5. In spite of this, most syphilis reactors and many HIV reactors still require work to resolve how they fit into prioritization.

Reaching Patients for Interview or Notification of Exposure

COVID-19 has heightened overall awareness of public health surveillance activities:

- Politicized by public officials

- Scams and public distrust of governmental public health

 - Have a way for members of the public to verify who you are – it's a two way street

Instability undercutting major social determinants of health due to income/job loss or changes in personal situation:

- Living situations/housing

- Access to health care

- Moving home due to pandemic

Reaching Patients for Interview or Notification of Exposure

Fieldwork significantly reduced

- COVID-19 exposure fears for both DIS and patient, since testing isn't always available and we can be asymptomatic
- Newly diagnosed PLWH may or may not have immune system issues
- If we give a client COVID-19 and they become very sick, we may burden them with lifelong healthcare debt
- Drug use has increased during pandemic; locating people who use and are unstably housed was already harder
 - Urgently jump on cases before information changes
 - Facebook messenger very helpful tool

Interview and Notification

Interviews change in a pandemic, too

- Some patients are, again, suspicious of public health
- Confidentiality is key
- Fear of judgment or consequences – if not isolating during pandemic
- Gaps in exposure periods may or may not have to do with isolating, but have to be addressed

Notification, testing, and treatment

- Wait times to get appointments can be longer
- Waiting room environment or flow are often significantly changed, leading to unease for patients or missed opportunities
- STD clinics and sexual health clinical partners are critical partners

Interview and Notification

Field Testing and Outreach Testing

- DIS often get around healthcare access issues by providing testing and/or medication in the field
- Must be tailored to meet social distancing guidelines wherever possible
- Can services be provided outdoors?
- PPE is necessary, but hard to get from suppliers.



Washington State Department of Health is committed to providing customers with forms and publications in appropriate alternate formats. Requests can be made by calling 800-525-0127 or by email at civil.rights@doh.wa.gov. TTY users dial 711.

Thank you for your kind attention.



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Philadelphia STD Program

Partner Services
during the
Covid-19
Pandemic

Partner Services

- Notifying OP of positive test results
- Notifying partners of exposure
- Ensuring partners receive necessary screening and treatment

Pre- COVID

Non-priority Investigation

Gonorrhea and Chlamydia

- Phone call, letter, field visit
- Close within thirty days
- Field visit made within five days of assignment if contact has not been made

Syphilis and HIV

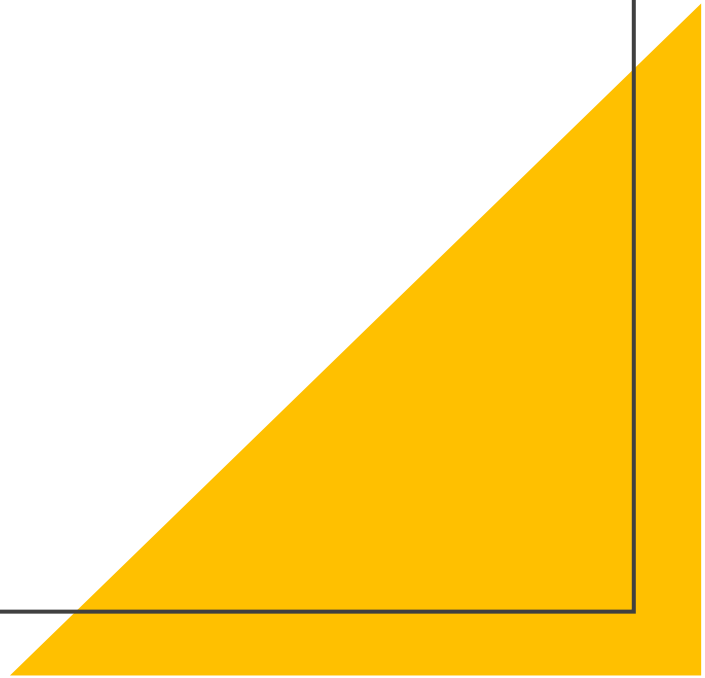
- Phone calls, letters, field visits
- Interviews conducted in clinic and face to face
- Close within twenty-one days
- Field visit made within five days of assignment if contact has not been made

Pre- COVID

Priority Investigation

Syphilis and HIV

- Multiple phone calls and field visits, mail referral letters
- Conduct interviews in clinic and the field (face to face)
- Field visit made within twenty-four hours of assignment if contact has not been made with patient



Philadelphia COVID-19 Phases

COVID-19 PHASED REOPENING IN PA

RED

Stay at home
order

YELLOW

Aggressive
Mitigation

GREEN

Aggressive
Mitigation Lifted

Red Phase

- RED – the most stringent - (March 2020)
 - Workplace restrictions
 - Essential businesses (hospitals, police and fire, health department, etc...)
 - Congregate care and prison restrictions in place
 - Schools and childcare facilities closed
 - Social restrictions
 - Stay at home orders in place
 - Large gatherings prohibited
 - Only travel for life sustaining purposes

STD Program – Red Guidelines

Non-priority investigations

- No field investigations completed during this phase
- If no response within two weeks of assignment, submit for review/closure
- Chlamydia & Gonorrhea patients – tele-med option available
- Complete all interviews and re-interviews via phone

STD Program – Red Guidelines

Priority investigations

- If contact has not been made with the patient within 1 week of assignment date, submit for review the FLS.
- If no response within two weeks of assignment, submit for review/closure
- All Original interviews and re-interviews are completed via telephone
- Pregnant patients
 - FV must be completed

Yellow Phase

- Yellow – ease restrictions (June 2020)
 - Workplace restrictions
 - Businesses must follow safety orders
 - Congregate care and prison restrictions in place
 - Schools remain closed; childcare facilities open complying with guidance
 - Social restrictions
 - Stay at home orders lifted for aggressive mitigation (implement social distancing)
 - Large gatherings of more than twenty-five prohibited

STD Program – Yellow Guidelines

Non-priority investigations

- No field investigations completed during this phase
- If no response within two weeks of assignment, submit for review/closure
- Complete all interviews and re-interviews via phone

STD Program – Yellow Guidelines

Priority investigations

- If contact has not been made with the patient within 1 week of assignment date, submit for review to the FLS.
- If no response within two weeks of assignment, submit for review/closure
- All Original interviews and re-interviews are completed via telephone
- P & S Cases; Pregnant patients
 - FV must be completed

Green Phase

- Green – most restrictions removed (July 2020)
 - Workplace restrictions
 - Businesses must follow safety orders
 - Congregate care and prison restrictions in place
 - Schools subject to CDC and commonwealth guidance; childcare facilities open complying with guidance
 - Social restrictions
 - Social distancing
 - Citywide mask orders in place
 - Large gatherings of more than two hundred fifty prohibited

STD Program – Green Guidelines

Non-priority investigations

- No FVs during this phase
- If no response within two weeks of assignment, submit for review/closure
- Complete all interviews and re-interviews via phone

STD Program – Green Guidelines

Priority investigations

- Most investigative activities resumed except for entering patient's homes

Field Visit Guidelines



- Maintain a 6 ft distance when speaking to the patient
- If the patient requires an interview
 - obtain the patient's phone number
 - inform the patient you will call them from your car
 - make a call to the patient and complete the interview
- If patient needs to be transported
 - patient must have a mask on (do not transport if they do not have a mask)
 - provide the patient with a pair of non-latex gloves to wear
 - patient should sit in the back seat (passenger's side) of the car
 - Use a drape sheet where patient will be sitting
 - Windows should be down/cracked

Personal Travel / Time off

COVID-19 TRAVEL PROTOCOL

Domestic Travel -

- Any travel to a red/high -risk state requires a 14-day quarantine from the return date to PA/NJ/DE
- International Travel
 - Employee must quarantine for 14 days from their return date to PA/NJ/DE



Current Clinic Practices

- Waiting room has limited seating capacity
- Telemedicine
- All staff must wear masks
- Negative pressure room

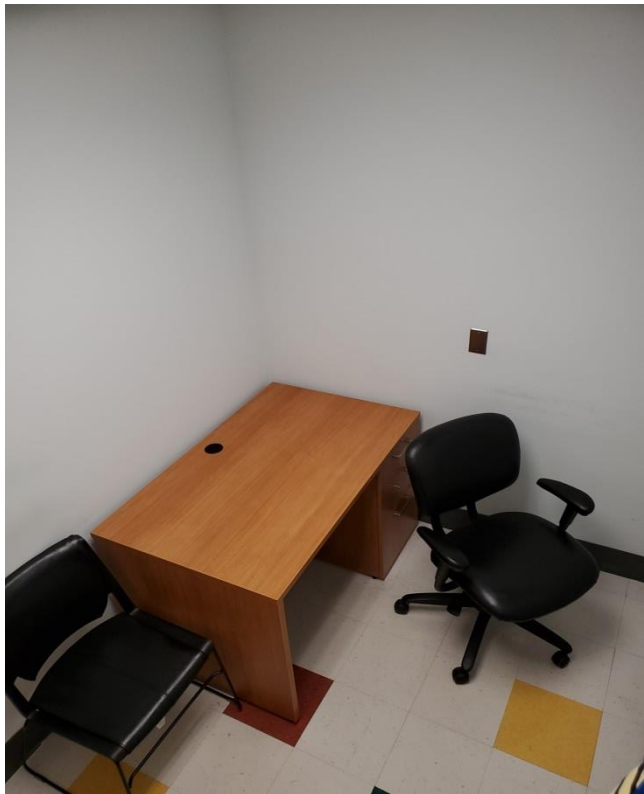
Contact Us

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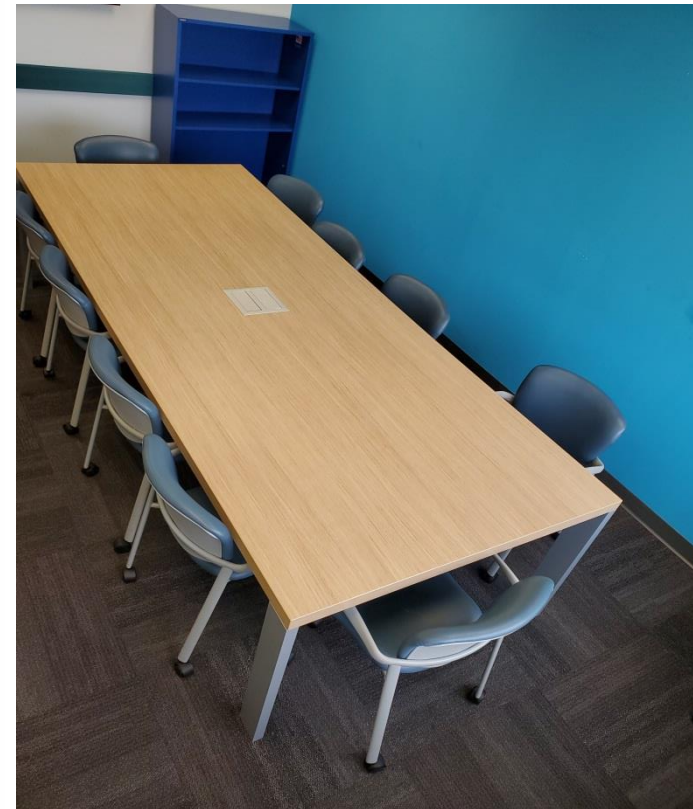
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DIS interviewing room

Pre - COVID-19



Now



THANK YOU



Questions

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The webinar recording and presentation slides will be emailed to those that registered. These materials will also be placed on the NCSD website.

- If you are a DIS and want to connect with peers around the country and share tips and resources, you can join NCSD's DIS Slack workspace at the link below. It is also in the chat box.
<http://bit.ly/ncsd-dis>
- Please complete the webinar evaluation once the webinar ends.