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**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
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Technical Bulletin

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 Report¹, 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 100,000 population³.

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 patient².

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:

<p>Carson City Health and Human Services Elaine Bergenheier Phone: (775) 283-7538 ebergenheier@carson.org</p>	<p>Southern Nevada Health District PrEP Navigators Phone: (702) 759-1381</p>	<p>Washoe County Health District Jennifer Howell, MPH Phone: (775) 328-6147 jhowell@washoecounty.us</p>	<p>Rural Counties Preston Nguyen Tang, MPH Phone: (702) 486-6488 ptang@health.nv.gov</p>
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Please also review and consult the CDC Sexual History Guide: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/sexualhistory.pdf>

References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/2019/default.htm>. Published April 2021.
- National LGBT Health Education Center. "Taking Routine Histories of Sexual Health: A System-Wide Approach for Health Centers". https://www.lgbtqihealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/COM-827-sexual-history_toolkit_2015.pdf. Published November 2015
- State of Nevada. Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Plan. https://endhivnevada.org/initiatives_and_progress/ending-the-hiv-epidemic/. Published December 2020.

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.



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