

# HEALTH ADVISORY



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## **REGION IV PUBLIC HEALTH**

Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum  
counties and Cowlitz Tribe

**To: Physicians and other health care providers**

**Please distribute a copy of this information to each provider in your organization.**

Questions regarding this information may be directed to the following Region IV health officers:

**Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH**

Clark County Public Health, 564.397.8182

Skamania County Community Health, 509.427.3850

Cowlitz County Health & Human Services, 360.414.5599

Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 360.795.6207

**Steven Krager, MD, MPH**

Clark County Public Health, 564.397.8182

Skamania County Community Health, 509.427.3850

Cowlitz County Health & Human Services, 360.414.5599

Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 360.795.6207

### **Alert categories:**

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

### Overview

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While we're all working to stop the spread of COVID-19, we need your help to prevent additional disease outbreaks.

Please review the guidance below and contact your local health department with questions, so we can continue to provide optimal STD and HIV care to our community.

### STD clinical guidance during COVID-19

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Guidance for adapting your practice while the need for physical distancing continues:

- [Washington State Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

**If your clinical services have not been disrupted**, continue to follow the recommendations in the [2015 STD treatment guidelines](#) and [2020 providing quality STD clinical services](#). Use appropriate precautions to prevent COVID-19 transmission to patients and providers. (See [CDC guidance for health care providers](#).)

**If your services rely on telemedicine**, [presumptive oral medication treatment](#) is acceptable for uncomplicated symptomatic infections and exposures. Advise patients treated presumptively to get tested as soon as practical and seek further care if symptoms persist.

**Consider referring patients to at-home self-collection testing services.**

**Provide [expedited partner therapy \(EPT\)](#) to partners of patients** diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea. This treatment can be offered without requiring partners to be tested or seen by health care providers. You can prescribe to patients or their partners and EPT medications are covered by health insurance. Contact your local health jurisdiction if you have questions or need assistance (contact information on next page).

**Continue to report lab-confirmed cases of HIV and STDs to your local health jurisdiction.**

- [Clark County Public Health](#)
- [Cowlitz County Health Department](#)
- [Skamania County Community Health](#)
- [Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services](#)

### Additional resources

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To subscribe or unsubscribe from this listserv, email: [Tippy.Hartford@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Tippy.Hartford@clark.wa.gov).

- [DOH COVID-19 and STD/HIV services resource page](#)
- US Health and Human Services [guidance on COVID-19 and people living with HIV](#)
- CDC [Guidance and Resources During Disruption of STD Clinical Services](#)
- [STD Clinical Consultation Network](#)

**Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) & post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP):**

- [CDC PrEP During COVID-19](#)
- Resources about [PEP](#) (CDC) and [PrEP](#) (CAP SW Washington)
- [CDC Guidance: PrEP for HIV prevention](#)
- [DOH Guidance: PrEP and PEP for HIV Prevention](#)
- [PrEP Watch](#): data, research and access
- [WHO PrEP implementation guidelines](#)

**Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT):**

- [DOH EPT guidance](#)
- [CDC EPT review and guidance](#)

**Tools for working with patients:**

- [CDC Recommendations for Providing Quality STD Clinical Services, 2020](#)
- [Affirmative care for people who are transgender or gender non-conforming](#)
- [Asking questions about sexual orientation and gender identity in clinical settings](#)
- [Taking a sexual history](#)

**Thank you for your partnership.**

Local health jurisdiction	Phone	Fax
Clark County Public Health	564.397.8082	564.397.8080
Cowlitz County Health Department	360.414.5599	360.425.7531
Skamania County Community Health	509.427.3850	509.427.0188
Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services	360.795.6207	360.795.6143