



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
HIV/STD/TB Section

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon
Health
Authority

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Dear _____,

In stride with the rest of the United States, Oregon has seen a significant increase in rates of Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) over the past several years. Between 2014 and 2019, Oregon saw a 150% increase in gonorrhea incidence and a 360% increase in early syphilis incidence among women with a corresponding resurgence in cases of congenital syphilis, including 5 neonatal deaths. In addition, the number of new HIV infections has remained stubbornly between 200 and 275 cases per year for the past decade despite the introduction of Treatment as Prevention and HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), an effective biomedical tool in preventing new HIV infections. Reduced patient access to preventative care services during the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated many of these trajectories, making routine STI screening more important than ever.

In 2016, the Oregon Public Health Division launched the End HIV Oregon campaign: *Testing is Easy, Prevention Works, and Treatment Saves Lives* with a goal to significantly reduce newly acquired HIV infections across the state. As part of this campaign, the Oregon AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC) faculty support Oregon clinicians in their place of practice by providing one-on-one education, tools, and resources using the End HIV Action Kit. The Action Kit is structured around four core HIV prevention practices:

1. *Take a thorough sexual history from all patients as part of routine medical care.*
2. *Screen and treat sexually active patients for STIs based on sexual history and clinical guidelines. This includes incorporating practices such as extra-genital screening, empiric treatment, and provision on Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT).*
3. *Talk about PrEP and PEP with HIV-negative patients at ongoing risk of exposure and the concept of Undetectable equal Untransmittable (U=U) with patients living with HIV who may have HIV-negative partners.*
4. *Prescribe PrEP and PEP according to clinical guidelines or refer patients to sites that provide PrEP and PEP.*

As a clinician, you have a unique understanding of barriers to providing quality preventative STI/HIV care and treatment. AETC faculty would like the opportunity to meet with you to discuss insights from your own practice and identify resources, tools, and information that you think would strengthen the capacity of Oregon providers to end new HIV infections.

Accompanying this letter is a link to schedule a brief check-in with a member of the Oregon AETC's clinical faculty to start the conversation. For more information about End HIV Oregon, or to learn about becoming part of Oregon's PrEP provider list (oraetc.org/prep-provider-list), please contact the Oregon AIDS Education and Training Center at info@oraetc.org, reach out to your health department, or visit endhivoregon.org.

Sincerely,

Tim W. Menza, MD, PhD
Medical Director
HIV/STD/TB Section