

Updated STD treatment guidelines

In June, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published updated Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Treatment Guidelines. This document plays a critical role in advising healthcare providers how to best diagnose and treat STDs.

The updated guidelines include new information related to:

- Vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV);
- Screening for gonorrhea, chlamydia and hepatitis C;
- Diagnosis of trichomoniasis and urethritis;
- Treatment of gonorrhea, urethritis/cervicitis and genital warts;
- Treatment of Chlamydia in pregnant women; and
- Clinical management of transgender individuals.



Per the new guidelines, doxycycline is no longer a preferred first-line drug for treating gonorrhea. OHA will update its STD investigative guidelines to make this change and other changes as needed.

Learn more:

- Download the 2015 STD treatment guidelines: www.cdc.gov/std/treatment
- Watch a webinar about the guidelines: <http://bit.ly/STDqWeb>
- Download the 2015 STD treatment guidelines app (coming soon!): <http://bit.ly/STDapp2>

Marriage equality and health equity

Oregon legalized same-sex marriage May 19, 2014. On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution guarantees a fundamental right to marriage for same-sex couples throughout the United States. These were historic days for civil rights and also victories for public health.



There is a growing body of evidence that our physical and social environments play a major role in our health outcomes. Discrimination is one of many factors referred to as a “social determinant of health” (see <http://bit.ly/SDH2010>).

In fact, a 2009 study (<http://bit.ly/ME-HIV>) found that bans on same-sex marriage were related to

an increase in HIV infection rates (by four cases per 100,000 people). Bans on same-sex marriage promote intolerance and stigma. For lesbian, gay and bisexual youth and adults, this stigma can lead to feelings of depression and isolation, as well as increased substance abuse and sexual risk behaviors. These factors have a well documented association with STD infection.

Conversely, when people feel affirmed and respected, they are more likely to take better care of their health, including their sexual health. Thus, the Supreme Court marriage ruling brings us closer to our vision of lifelong health for all people in Oregon. Oregon’s recent ban on gay conversion therapy for youth (<http://bit.ly/ORgct>) is another example of a policy that holds promise for advancing health equity.

As a state and as a nation, we have made tremendous progress. For that, we should all feel a sense of pride.

Lane County STD Strategic Plan

Lane County Communicable Disease Program staff recently drafted a three-year strategic plan to reduce the burden of STDs in the county through screening, diagnosis and treatment.

An STD steering committee was formed with community leaders, local non-profit organizations, public health staff and physicians. The committee drafted a list of gaps, issues and goals. It then voted on the top four issues as the foundation of the plan: provider education, identification of potential funding sources, normalization of screening and targeted high-risk screening. Members divided into groups to create objectives and activities for each of these four areas. At the same time, Communicable Disease Program staff continued moving forward with the Lane County Public Health Strategic Plan, which supports and builds upon the STD Steering Committee's work.

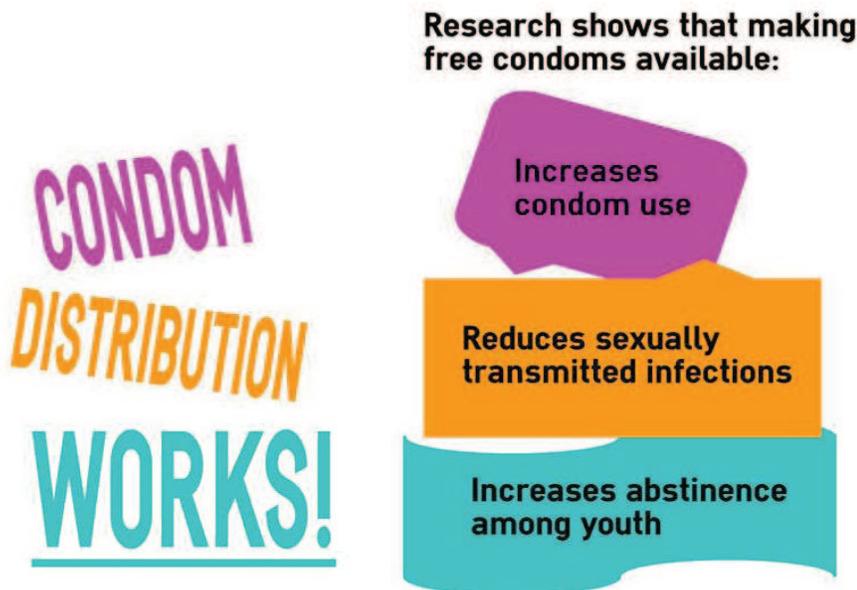
Current efforts have focused on expanding STD

screening with county partners, including youth services, the Lane County Jail and the HIV Alliance needle exchange. A provider tool kit is available via Dropbox (www.dropbox.com) to ensure providers have easy access to the most up-to-date screening, diagnosis and treatment guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Without the help of various partners in these efforts, reducing STDs in Lane County would remain a potentially unwinnable battle. These relationships remain vital to achieving the plan's goals.

OHA commends Lane County for its leadership addressing STDs. For more information about the Lane County STD Strategic Plan, contact Matthew Francis, MS, PhD, community health epidemiologist at Matthew.Francis@co.lane.or.us or Cindy Morgan, NP, MSN, communicable disease nursing supervisor at Cindy.Morgan@co.lane.or.us.

Did you know?



Learn more at <http://bit.ly/condomSense>.

Questions? Contact the OHA, HIV/STD/TB Section at 971-673-0153.