



**Department of Health  
and Mental Hygiene**

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH  
Commissioner

March 2017

Dear Colleague,

Each year, *about 2,500 New Yorkers* are diagnosed with HIV. Many others continue to risk infection through sexual behavior or drug use.

People at risk should be offered pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis (**PrEP and PEP**) to prevent HIV.

- **PrEP** is a pill taken daily to prevent HIV infection when used in combination with other risk-reduction strategies.
- **PEP** is a combination of pills taken daily for 28 days to prevent HIV infection after a high-risk exposure to HIV.

This **PrEP and PEP Action Kit** includes clinical resources for your practice and educational materials for your patients. The Action Kit is structured around these 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. Empiric treatment is often indicated.
3. **Talk about PrEP and PEP** with HIV-negative patients at ongoing risk of exposure and HIV-positive patients 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.

A Health Department representative will visit your practice to discuss how the Action Kit can be useful to your daily practice.

For more information about PrEP and PEP in New York City, or to learn about becoming part of the New York City referral network, please contact the Health Department at [PrEPandPEP@health.nyc.gov](mailto:PrEPandPEP@health.nyc.gov) or visit [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov) (search “HIV PrEP and PEP”). We look forward to partnering with you to implement these new strategies for HIV prevention.

Sincerely,

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of Health  
and Mental Hygiene

Demetre C. Daskalakis, MD, MPH  
Acting Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Disease Control  
New York City Department of Health  
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