



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH  
*Commissioner*

## **2017 DOHMH Advisory #11: Celebrate NYC Pride by Offering Guidelines-Based Preventive Services to Men and Transgender Individuals Who Have Sex with Men**

**Celebrating Pride in NYC includes supporting the sexual health of Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) & Transgender Individuals Who have Sex with Men (TSM).**

*Please share with your colleagues in Internal and Family Medicine, Primary Care, Pediatrics, Infectious Disease, Ob/Gyn, and Other Providers of Sexual Health Services*

- **Ask your patients about sexual practices to identify MSM/TGM and others who would benefit from high-impact sexual health services and preventive interventions.**
- **Offer HIV testing every 3-6 months to sexually active MSM & TSM; use HIV medications to treat and prevent HIV.**
- **Screen sexually active MSM and TSM every 3-6 months for common bacterial Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) at all appropriate body sites; encourage condom use to curb rising rates of these infections.**
- **Vaccinate MSM & TSM to prevent illnesses affecting MSM & TSM (hepatitis A and B, human papillomavirus, and meningococcal infections).**
- **Be alert to emerging infectious health threats facing MSM and TSM populations such as *Shigella* infections with decreased susceptibility to azithromycin and increasing cases of Hepatitis A among MSM in NYC and other domestic and international cities.**

June 6, 2017

As Pride season begins in New York City, a time when many Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Questioning/Queer (LGBTQ) New Yorkers celebrate, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) would like to remind providers about evidence-based strategies to support the sexual health of Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and Transgender individuals who have Sex with Men (TSM). The successful implementation of these high-impact strategies begins with engaging in honest and open conversations with patients about sexual desire and sexual activity with a goal of designing a personalized plan to support and maintain a fulfilling and healthy sex life.

- **HIV testing is the gateway to HIV treatment and prevention.**
  - [Offer sexually active MSM and TSM HIV testing every 3-6 months](#). Individuals testing negative who are at risk for HIV exposure (condomless sex, shared injection equipment, etc.) should be encouraged to use condoms and/or sterile injection equipment and to consider using [Pre- or Post-Exposure Prophylaxis](#) for added protection against HIV.

- Start treatment for persons newly diagnosed with HIV as soon as possible. Immediate treatment improves HIV outcomes and prevents transmission of the virus to sexual partners. Learn more about HIV treatment [here](#).
- **Sexually transmitted infections (STI)** are on the rise nationally and in NYC. Condoms prevent many STI when used correctly and consistently. Aggressive screening and treatment should be offered to sexually active MSM and TSM every 3-6 months. [Complete STI screening](#) of MSM, TSM, and others who engage in anal sex includes:
  - Screening for gonorrhea and Chlamydia using nucleic acid (NAAT) tests at oral, anal, and urine/urethral sites. *Screening urine/urethral sites alone may miss up to 70% of gonorrhea and Chlamydia infections in MSM and TSM.* [Click here for a list of labs that provide validated oral and anal gonorrhea and Chlamydia NAAT testing.](#)
  - Syphilis screening Be aware of [current shortages of penicillin](#), NYC recommendations on treating individuals diagnosed with syphilis and reporting these infections.
  - **NOTE:** HIV negative MSM/TSM diagnosed with early (i.e., primary or secondary) syphilis or a rectal STI have a very high likelihood of acquiring HIV in the future. These individuals should be offered PrEP to prevent HIV. PrEP and PEP are available at NYC Sexual Health Clinics. [Learn more about NYC Sexual Health Clinics.](#)
- **Hepatitis A** outbreaks have been reported among MSM in Europe; cases are also on the rise in NYC among *unvaccinated* MSM. MSM and TSM are also at risk for hepatitis B. Vaccinate MSM and TSM who are non-immune or who have not previously received a documented complete series of both hepatitis A and B vaccines. Learn more about local increases in hepatitis A cases in MSM and hepatitis A vaccinations [here](#). Unvaccinated MSM and TSM patients traveling to Madrid for World Pride at the end of June 2017 or other European countries with hepatitis A outbreaks among MSM should be offered Hepatitis A vaccination prior to travel. Hepatitis B vaccine information maybe found at: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/hepatitis-b.page>.
- **Quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine** (MenACWY) is now recommended [by national guidelines](#) for all people living with HIV. NYC DOHMH also [recommends](#) vaccinating MSM, regardless of HIV status, who regularly have close or intimate contact with men met through an online website, digital application (“app”), or at a bar or party.
- **Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine** prevents cervical, anal, and oropharyngeal cancer as well as genital warts. Follow [national guidelines](#) and offer HPV vaccination to all MSM and TSM <27 years of age who have not completed the vaccine series.
- [Shigella infections with decreased susceptibility to azithromycin](#) are increasing in NYC, particularly among MSM. Persons with suspected or diagnosed Shigellosis should only receive antibiotic therapy if they present with severe illness or have immune-compromising conditions including HIV/AIDS; if treatment is indicated, susceptibility results should be used to guide treatment. If empiric azithromycin therapy does not work, target therapy using antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

**Sexual Health Services are available for all New Yorkers 12 years and older at NYC Sexual Health Clinics regardless of gender identity or the gender of their sex partners. All sexually active New Yorkers should celebrate NYC Pride and Get Checked.**

Wishing you and your patients a happy and healthy NYC Pride season!



**Demetre C Daskalakis, MD MPH**  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Disease Control  
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

## Resources

### City Health Information Bulletins:

Providing Comprehensive Healthcare to Men Who have Sex with Men (MSM):

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/chi/chi-33-4.pdf>

Providing Primary Care to Transgender Adults:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/chi/chi-34-2.pdf>

### Other Resources:

**PrEP and PEP Provider Information:** <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/resources/public-health-action-kits-prep-pep.page>

**New York State HIV Treatment Guidelines;** [https://www.hivguidelines.org/adult-hiv/diagnosis-treatment/#tab\\_0](https://www.hivguidelines.org/adult-hiv/diagnosis-treatment/#tab_0)

**Meningococcal infection information:** <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/meningitis-meningococcal.page>

**Hepatitis A information:** <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/hepatitis-a.page>

**Human papillomavirus information:** <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/human-papillomavirus-hpv.page>

**Hepatitis B information:** <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/hepatitis-b.page>

**STI Screening Recommendations:** [https://www.nycptc.org/x/Screening\\_chart\\_4\\_11\\_17.pdf](https://www.nycptc.org/x/Screening_chart_4_11_17.pdf)

**Shigella information:** <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/han/alert/antibiotic-resistant-shigella.pdf>

**Penicillin Shortage and Treatment of Syphilis Information:**  
<http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/han/advisory/penicillin-shortage-advisory.pdf>

**NYC Sexual Health Clinic Information:** <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/sexual-health-clinics.page>

**NYC Labs offering validated extragenital STI testing:**  
<http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/std/nys-lab-gc-naat-testing.pdf>