

Date: September 15, 2020

From: George Walton, STD Program Manager

Re: National shortage of supplies for chlamydia and gonorrhea testing

There is a nationwide shortage of supplies necessary to conduct chlamydia/gonorrhea nucleic acid amplification testing. Several manufacturers are reporting backorders and shortages. Several laboratories in Iowa have reported being directly impacted by these shortages. You are strongly encouraged to check with the laboratory you normally work with for chlamydia/gonorrhea testing to determine the extent of the shortages and the impact upon your clinic and patients.

If the laboratory you work with is experiencing shortages, we encourage you to work closely with them to determine how best to conserve resources and prioritize testing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed detailed guidance to assist with prioritization of chlamydia/gonorrhea testing. In instances in which supplies are limited, certain groups may still be prioritized for asymptomatic screening (e.g., women 25 years of age or younger, pregnant women, and men who have sex with men who are at increased risk). Others who should be prioritized include those who are symptomatic with urethritis, cervicitis, pelvic inflammatory disease, or proctitis.

There has been a sustained increase in gonorrhea incidence in Iowa, meaning that appropriate testing and treatment remains vital. Conducting a [sexual history](#) with patients is an important step in determining appropriate testing. The complete guidance from CDC may be found here <https://www.cdc.gov/std/prevention/disruptionGuidance.htm>.

For more information, please contact:

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