**JUNE 2019 EDITION**

**UPDATE TO LABCORP SPECIMEN COLLECTION KITS FOR CT/GC NAA TESTING**

The Aptima vaginal swab collection kit (orange kit) has been rebranded by Hologic. It is now the Aptima multitest swab collection kit. This is a rebranding by the manufacturer. The contents of the kit have not changed.

The manufacturer now indicates that the collection kit may be used for extragenital swabs, in addition to vaginal swabs. Paper supply order forms for the kits should now read “Orange” kits and not “Vaginal.” Supply shipments may also include a letter from LabCorp notifying customers of the change.

Despite this change, testing funded by the Office of Epidemiology requires use of the orange kits for vaginal testing and purple kits for extragenital testing.

The Office of Epidemiology laboratory screening QA Manuals are currently being updated to reflect these changes.

If you have questions, please contact Felencia McGee at felencia.mcgee@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-7289.

**RYLAND ROANE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

DDP is excited to announce the launch of the Ryland R. Roane Fellowship Program. The program was created to honor DDP employee Ryland Roane’s memory and service, as well as his legacy of mentoring and guiding Black gay men working in HIV. The Ryland Roane Fellowship Program will be a two year paid assignment that begins in September 2019. The overarching goal is for the selected individual(s) to gain experience, mentoring and leadership skills to prepare for a career in the public health with a focus on improving health outcomes for Black gay men and people living with HIV. During year one, fellows will gain experience working in both community-based organizations and health districts in the Richmond metropolitan area. During year two, fellows will be housed with DDP in the Central Office and select a project or focus area.

To read more about Ryland’s life and get full details on the fellowship program and application process, please click here. Please share with any individuals you believe may be interested in this opportunity.
VIRGINIA GETS TESTED COMMUNITY MATERIALS

New HIV testing materials are available! Posters and palm cards are in-stock and available for order through the Disease Prevention Hotline. These items are from the Virginia Gets Tested campaign. The materials highlight making HIV testing routine and the availability of testing throughout Virginia.

To order these materials please download and complete the Literature Request Form. Once completed follow the instructions on the form to return it and have your order fulfilled. For assistance with the form or order fulfillment please contact the Disease Prevention Hotline at (800) 533-4148.

WALGREENS NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY ACTIVATION

National HIV Testing Day once again falls on June 27. Walgreens and Greater Than AIDS are partnering with state health departments, and local organizations across the nation to provide free HIV testing. VDH and many organizations throughout Virginia will be participating.

For organizations that are testing at Walgreens stores, make sure that you are up-to-date with communications from Walgreens and Greater Than AIDS. Visit the NHTD Partner Portal to view past webinars, frequently asked questions, the timeline of key dates and more. Make sure that you have an electronic limited use license agreement (eLULA) signed for each location if you are testing at more than one site. Without a completed eLULA you will not be able to test at your agreed upon location(s).

The activation itself will happen on June 27 from 10 am until 7 pm. If your agency is not testing, you can still support the movement. Click here for a social media guide as well as images to share to promote the activation. There are also images that promote just NHTD without the Walgreens tie in. For more information about the activation in Virginia, contact Chris Barnett at christopher.barnett@vdh.virginia.gov.

PATIENT NAVIGATION LIST

The Patient Navigation List that includes all HIV affiliated community health workers and service navigators, regardless of funding source, has been updated on the DDP website. You can find the list on the HIV & STD Resources page under the Partner resources tab and resources dropdown. The list is in a Microsoft Excel format. Once you click on the link for the list it will automatically download to your computer or mobile device as long as you have a program that can open an Excel file.

The list is organized by organization and service region. Each patient navigator is listed as well as their email address and telephone number. For questions on Patient Navigation, please contact Susan Carr at susan.carr@vdh.virginia.gov.

NEW PRODUCTS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CONDOM DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

New condom and lubricant products are available through the VDH Condom Distribution Program. Due to demand for a silicone lubricant, ONE Move Silicone is now available. It is a waterless and oil-free lubricant. A new condom and lube combo pack, the ONE Ultrafeel Combo pack is also available. This 2-in-1 pack contains an ultra-thin condom with an extra 2 milliliter pouch of lube. This means there are now 3 styles of combo pack available.
For variety, ONE Vanish Hyperthin, ONE Tattoo Touch, and ONE MSM Collection condoms are available. Vanish Hyperthin condoms are 35% thinner than a standard condom. They are also made with softer latex. The Tattoo Touch condoms are rib-raised and are based on three unique tattoo designs. They are also made with softer latex.

For questions, to sign up for the program, or to request new order forms, please contact Beth Marschak. Beth can be reached at elizabeth.marschak@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-8008.

WANT TO SHAPE HIV PREVENTION AND CARE PLANNING IN VIRGINIA?
Virginia’s Community HIV Planning Group (CHPG) is recruiting new members. The Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Division of Disease Prevention and makes recommendations on the development and monitoring of the Virginia Integrated HIV Services Plan. CHPG members include people living with HIV, family members and allies, and people working in HIV prevention and care. The group maintains representation from a broad array of populations who are impacted by HIV. Members outside Richmond are reimbursed for travel. Meetings are conducted in person six times a year.

You may find the general information page on the VDH website helpful. For more information, consult CHPG’s charter and bylaws and Virginia’s integrated HIV services plan. You are welcome to observe a meeting. If you are ready to apply, find the online application here, or contact Kristen Donovan at kristen.donovan@vdh.virginia.gov for a paper copy of the application to submit via mail or fax.

PERSONNEL
Transitions
HIV and Hepatitis Prevention is pleased to announce that Susan Carr has transferred to the position of Pharmacy Testing and Special Projects Coordinator. Susan will also continue to work with the Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Resources and Linkages for Inmates (CHARLI) program. In her new role, she will work with the Walgreens HIV and Hepatitis testing initiative and HIV Early Intervention Services. Her email will remain unchanged. Susan’s phone number is now (804) 864-8020.

Questions about the Primary Prevention for People Living with HIV grant program should be directed to Ted Heck at ted.heck@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-8012.

Farewell
DDP bids farewell to Heather Bronson, Pharmacy Testing and Special Projects Coordinator. Heather has taken a position with Orasure Technologies where she will share her expertise establishing and managing testing programs with health departments across the south. Heather Bronson joined VDH in 2007. Her creation of the Pharmacy Testing Program at DDP garnered national attention and contributed to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s development of a pharmacy based testing curriculum. Her caring and giving demeanor will be missed greatly.