



January 13, 2017

Dear Provider:

The National Capital Region is experiencing high levels of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The Commonwealth of Virginia, the District of Columbia, and the State of Maryland each have laws requiring health care providers and laboratories to report diagnoses and to cooperate with the health department to complete case investigations. Our responsibilities complement yours in ensuring the health of our communities while you are addressing the individual's health needs. Our focus is to rapidly identify cases, link people to care and treatment, inform partners and ensure that persons receive services to address their health needs. These health department activities are more challenging due to the reality that our clients and their partners (or contacts) are mobile: they commute, seek care, socialize, migrate, and see providers with locations in multiple jurisdictions that utilize out-of-jurisdiction laboratories.

Currently, the three health departments actively cooperate and share information on persons who seek medical care outside of their area of residence. We must operate in this way to prevent new infections and assure individuals are linked to and retained in care and treatment. Please join us in this cross-jurisdictional effort to increase the timeliness and effectiveness of our public health efforts to intervene in the spread of HIV and STIs.

Therefore, on behalf of each of our health departments, we authorize and encourage you to respond to requests for information on HIV and STI disease investigations of cross-jurisdiction cases from our partner health departments in the National Capital Region.

Thank you for your assistance in our ongoing activities to reduce HIV and STI in our region.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diana L. Jordan".

Diana L. Jordan, RN, MS
Director, Division of Disease Prevention
Virginia Department of Health

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Kharfen".

Michael Kharfen
Senior Deputy Director, HIV/AIDS,
Hepatitis, STD & TB Admin.
DC Department of Health

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey Hitt".

Director, Infectious Disease
Infectious Disease
Prevention and Health
Services Bureau
State of Maryland