

Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Testing Shortage Guidance for Non-Clinical Settings

09/11/2020

On September 8, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a [Dear Colleague letter](#) addressing the recent national shortage of chlamydia (CT) and gonorrhea (GC) diagnostic test kits. This letter includes guidance on the prioritization of testing certain populations when diagnostic test kits are limited. CDC's Tier 2 guidance is outlined below and should be followed if a shortage of CT/GC diagnostic test kits is identified. When the availability of CT/GC diagnostic test kits returns to normal levels, screening according to the CDC's [Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2015](#) should be resumed.



IMPORTANT: Individuals who present to non-clinical settings and report symptoms consistent with a sexually transmitted infection (e.g. discharge, painful urination, genital sores, etc.) should be referred to a local health department or private healthcare provider for evaluation.

Asymptomatic Individuals		
Population	Who to Prioritize	How to Test
Women (especially pregnant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All women 25 years old and younger Women older than 25 who are at risk* Prioritize pregnant and non-pregnant women under 25 if test kits are severely limited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaginal swab is the preferred specimen Extragenital screening for women not recommended
Men who have sex with men (MSM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All MSM, regardless of age Consider extended screening intervals longer than 3 months for MSM on PrEP or higher risk MSM in order to ensure testing availability for the other populations above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maximize detection, prioritize rectal and pharyngeal CT/GC testing over urethral/urine-based testing for MSM who report exposure at these sites In severe shortage, prioritize rectal testing over pharyngeal testing, according to reported exposure
Men who have sex with only women (MSW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CT/GC screening is not recommended for asymptomatic MSW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CT/GC screening is not recommended for asymptomatic MSW

* e.g. those who have a new sex partner, more than one sex partner, a sex partner with concurrent sex partners, or a sex partner who has an STI