

TO: Vermont Health Care Providers and Health Care Facilities
FROM: Jennifer S. Read, MD, FIDSA; Medical Epidemiologist

Update on Prioritization of STI Testing

The [November 2, 2020 Health Advisory](#) described a nationwide shortage of test kits and supplies at clinical laboratories, especially with regard to shortages of chlamydia (CT) and gonorrhea (GC) nucleic acid amplification tests (CT/GC NAATs). The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided guidance on approaches to prioritizing CT and GC testing when STI diagnostic test kits were in short supply.

More recently, the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory (VDHL) conducted a survey of clinical microbiology laboratories in the state of Vermont to assess whether these laboratories were still experiencing a reagent supply shortage. All except one laboratory responded. Of the laboratories that responded, all reported that there was no current shortage of CT and GC testing kits/testing supplies.

REQUESTED ACTION:

Be aware that clinical microbiology laboratories in Vermont currently report adequate CT and GC testing kits/testing supplies.

If you have any questions, please contact the HAN Coordinator at 802-859-5900 or vthan@vermont.gov.

HAN Message Type Definitions

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service Message: Provides general correspondence from VDH, which is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.