



To: Sexual Health Clinics, Family Planning Providers, Hospitals, Emergency Rooms, Community Health Centers, Urgent Care Centers, College Health Centers, Local Health Departments, Community Based Organizations, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatric, Adolescent Medicine, Dermatology, Family Medicine, Infectious Disease, Primary Care Providers and Clinical Labs

From: New York State Department of Health, Wadsworth and the AIDS Institute, Office of Sexual Health & Epidemiology

Date: February 10, 2023

HEALTH ADVISORY: MULTI-DRUG NON-SUSCEPTIBLE GONORRHEA REPORTED IN MASSACHUSETTS

- On January 19, 2023, the Massachusetts Department of Health issued a clinical [alert](#) regarding a novel gonorrhea strain in a resident that showed reduced susceptibility to multiple antibiotics and another case with genetic markers that indicate a similar antimicrobial susceptibility pattern.
- Both individuals were successfully treated and cured of their infection.
- **To date, no gonorrhea antibiotic resistant cases have been reported in New York State.**
- This is the first time that resistance or reduced susceptibility to 5 classes of antibiotics has been identified in gonorrhea in the United States.
- Antibiotic resistant strains of gonorrhea and transmission of these strains have been, and continue to be, a public health concern nationally and in New York State.
- Since 2006, New York State has participated in gonorrhea resistance surveillance¹ with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Currently, two sites are participating: one in New York City and one in Erie County.

GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLINICIANS:

- **All laboratory confirmed and clinically suspected cases of antibiotic resistant gonorrhea must be reported to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) within 24 hours of identification. Positive detection by any method is to be reported. If performed, antibiotic susceptibility test results should be reported, regardless of susceptibility pattern.**
- **Report any suspected gonorrhea cephalosporin treatment failure or any *N. gonorrhoeae* specimen with decreased cephalosporin susceptibility to the CDC by completing the following consultation form: <https://airc.cdc.gov/surveys/?s=JACPEYPPAJ3T779W>, and notify your local health department.**
- Management of gonorrhea (both uncomplicated and antibiotic resistant) should be guided by the CDC 2021 [STD Treatment Guidelines](#).

¹ CDC Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP) Profiles, 2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/gisp-profiles/default.htm>

- Providers should work with their patients to refer their sex partner(s) with whom they have had sexual contact in the past 60 days for evaluation, testing, and presumptive treatment for *N. gonorrhoeae*.
- Within 7 – 14 days post treatment of persons with pharyngeal gonorrhea, it is recommended that providers perform a test of cure to ensure that there are no signs and symptoms of the gonorrhea. This will also ensure that treatment is considered adequate and complete.
- **Within 3 months of treatment (regardless of site of infection) it is recommended that treated individuals be retested to ensure reinfection has not occurred.**
- **If there is clinical suspicion of any of the following: antibiotic resistance or treatment failure, NAAT and culture specimens from urogenital and extragenital mucosal site(s), as applicable, should be collected and processed.**
 - *Neisseria gonorrhoea* isolates with suspected antimicrobial resistance can be submitted at ambient temperature on an agar slant or JEMBEC tray with a CO₂ tablet to the Bacteriology Lab at the Wadsworth Center at the following address:
 - New York State Department of Health, Wadsworth Center David Axelrod Institute, 120 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, NY 12208
 - A test requisition is required to be submitted with the isolate. Testing can be ordered electronically through the Health Commerce System or by filling out the requisition form at the following link and submitting it with the isolate: https://wadsworth.org/sites/default/files/WebDoc/DOH-4463%20Infectious%20Disease%20Requisition%2007_2022.pdf
 - FedEx Shipping: Laboratories may ship *Neisseria gonorrhoea* isolates with suspected antimicrobial resistance free of charge using our Wadsworth Center CDC AR Lab Network account to create a label for shipping by FedEx.
 - Log on to Fedex.com
 - From the toolbar, select Shipping/Create Shipment
 - User ID: ARLNWC, Password: \$18Media!
- All *N. gonorrhoeae* isolates in disseminated gonorrhea (DGI) cases should be tested for antimicrobial susceptibility, which requires culture. Please contact your local health department for guidance on how to send specimens to Wadsworth Center, NYSDOH for additional testing.
- Clinical consultation for antibiotic resistance and/or DGI management is available through the:
 - Clinical Education Initiative (CEI) Sexual Health Center of Excellence: 1-866-637-2342;
 - [STD Clinical Consultation Network](#).
- Educate yourself and your team on the services offered by partner services and how partner services can extend the continuum of care to your patients, their partners, and others who may have been exposed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cumGb4ASugk>
 - NYSDOH Partner Services: https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/std/partner_services/index.htm

If you have laboratory testing questions, please call Kara Mitchell or Marie-Claire Rowlinson at 518-474-4177 or via email kara.mitchell@health.ny.gov or marie-claire.rowlinson@health.ny.gov.

For all other questions, please contact the NYSDOH Office of Sexual Health and Epidemiology at (518) 474-3598 or stdc@health.ny.gov with questions or for additional assistance.

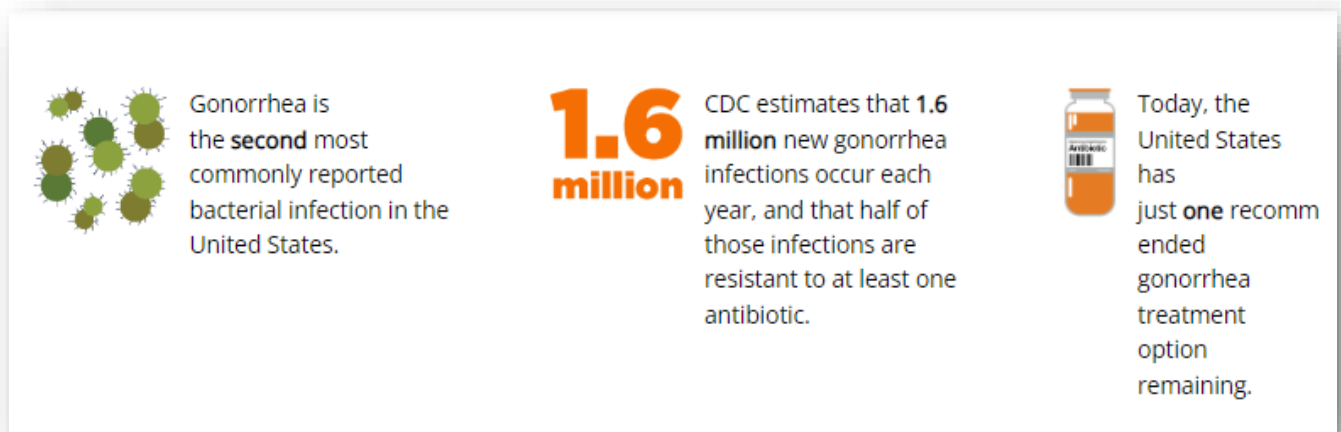
Resources

More information about gonorrhea and reporting:

- CDC Drug-Resistant Gonorrhea information: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/drug-resistant/default.htm>
- CDC Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP) Profiles, 2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/gisp-profiles/default.htm>
- New York State Department of Health – Gonorrhea Case Report Form: <https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/ctrldocs/cdess/CdessHelp/BlankForms/Gonorrhea.pdf>
- 2021 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines, “Gonococcal Infections”: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/gonorrhea.htm>
- The STD Treatment (Tx) Guidelines mobile app is free and available for [Apple devices](#) and [Android devices](#)

Clinician training and other resources:

- Clinical Education Initiative (CEI) Sexual Health Center of Excellence:
 - resources: https://ceitraining.org/sexual_health_resources/
 - [Materials Order Form](#)
- Guidance for obtaining a sexual history is available on the CDC Division of STD Prevention resource page: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/resources.htm>
- National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers STD Clinical Consultation Network <https://www.stdccn.org/>
- CDC Recommendations for the Laboratory-Based Detection of *C. trachomatis* and *N. gonorrhoeae* – 2014 <https://www.cdc.gov/std/laboratory/2014labrec/default.htm>
- National STD Curriculum <https://www.std.uw.edu/>
- CDC STD Prevention Resources <https://www.cdc.gov/std/prevention/default.htm>



Infographic from: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/drug-resistant/public-health-threat/public-health-threat-text-only.htm>