



March 28, 2008

Dear Colleague:

As you know, April is STD Awareness Month, an opportunity to raise public awareness about the impact of STDs on the lives of Americans and the importance of individuals discussing sexual health with their health care providers and if sexually active, their partners. Many of you, our partners in STD prevention, already have activities, events and campaigns planned for April. The purpose of this letter is to let you know what CDC is doing to provide support to state and local health departments and other partner organizations for STD Awareness Month.

In collaboration with NCSH, ASHA, and colleagues in state and local health departments, we have developed an STD Awareness Month website which provides a central location for STD Awareness Month information and a foundation for expansion in future years. The web address is www.cdcnpin.com/stdawareness, and it will be live on April 1, 2008. On the site you will find materials developed to assist with STD Awareness Month visibility, as well as links to materials developed by others. An STD Awareness Month poster that was available at the CDC booth at the National STD Prevention Conference in Chicago is being mailed to STD program managers and STD project directors and can be ordered through the STD Awareness Month website.

We encourage you to use the materials on the site and to share with us links to your products so we can include them as the site evolves. We also invite you to begin thinking with us about ways to expand our collective efforts for STD Awareness Month 2009 in order to enhance collaboration and synergy between what you are doing in your communities and what we can do at a national level to support those activities.

We have also implemented the first phase of enhancing the www.hivtest.org website. Users can now enter their zip codes to locate the nearest STD testing locations. The enhanced site will also be live April 1, 2008, and can also be accessed from the STD Awareness Month site. We look forward to its further development into a fully-integrated STD/HIV testing site resource in the upcoming months.

As many of you are aware, STDs among adolescents have received heightened national visibility as a result of studies presented at the National STD Prevention Conference in Chicago earlier this month. STD Awareness Month is an ideal time for all of us in STD prevention to capitalize on this visibility and to stress within our communities the reality that STDs are **everyone's** concern.

Sincerely,

/John M. Douglas, Jr./

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