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## PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

### INCREASING REPORTS OF DISSEMINATED GONOCOCCAL INFECTIONS

#### FEBRUARY 23, 2022

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The Riverside University Health System - Public Health (RUHS-PH) provides this guidance based on current information. Updated guidance will be issued as new information becomes available.

#### **Situation**

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recently issued a Dear Colleague letter alerting health care providers of increasing reports of disseminated gonococcal infections (DGI) in California.

CDPH recommends the following for health care providers:

- 1) For all sexually active individuals who use illicit drugs, especially methamphetamine, screen for gonorrhea at sites of potential exposure (urogenital, pharyngeal, and rectal).
- 2) For sexually active patients who report any signs or symptoms consistent with DGI such as swelling and pain at a single joint, polyarthralgia, migratory arthralgias or rash consistent with DGI (diffuse erythematous-based papules, pustules, or vesicles), consider testing for gonorrhea at sites of potential exposure, as well as performing culture of blood and/or other sites of localized infection as indicated.
- 3) For sexually active females <25 years of age, pregnant patients, men who have sex with men, individuals with HIV, and those at increased risk for infection, continue routine screening for gonorrhea and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD) per previous CDPH and U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) recommendations.

The Dear Colleague letter is located at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Dear-Colleague-Letter-for-Medical-Providers-Increasing-DGI-in-CA-12.23.20.pdf>

Health Care providers should report gonococcal infections by faxing a Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) to 951-358-6007 or through CalREDIE for health care providers who are enrolled. Please contact the STD program at 951-358-7820 for any questions.

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