

# PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

## PROVIDER INFORMATION



February 13, 2019

### April is STI/STD Awareness Month

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) encourages providers to help improve chlamydia screening rates across Minnesota by registering as a test site.

Chlamydia rates continue to rise in Minnesota, threatening the health and well-being of thousands of adolescents and young adults in Minnesota. From 2006 – 2016, the chlamydia rate increased by 71%, with an additional 4% increase from 2016 – 2017. The [Minnesota Chlamydia Partnership](#) (MCP) is a community organization that works with community groups, clinics, schools and health plans to improve public and professional awareness of chlamydia, increase screening and treatment rates and support efforts to make screening more accessible.

One way you can help this effort is to register as a testing site for the **2019 Minnesota Statewide STI Testing and Prevention Week, which is April 8 – 12**. The Community Restoring Urban Youth Sexual Health (CRUSH) led the first STI Testing Day in 2015 and has continued to lead this important effort every year. In 2018, 56 clinics, organizations and tribal entities across Minnesota participated and provided no-cost and low-cost STI screening to over 700 youth and young adults. Help increase this reach in 2019 by becoming a testing site.

CRUSH will provide you with promotional materials for your site if you register **no later than February 14<sup>th</sup>**. **Registration is now open.** To register as a testing site, please visit:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTs3g2Pj9FLZbJZKouhclLKQslB67MSJ2HZ3VxX\\_u53OMudQ/vi/ewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTs3g2Pj9FLZbJZKouhclLKQslB67MSJ2HZ3VxX_u53OMudQ/vi/ewform?usp=sf_link)

[Click here for more information](#) on the CRUSH Facebook page.

### Other Opportunities to improve Minnesota's chlamydia screening rates:

- Make chlamydia screening routine.
  - Consider implementing standard chlamydia screening for all your female patients age 16-24. The University of Michigan Health System has created a [sample workflow](#), which includes patient and parent letter examples.
- Offer urine chlamydia testing (also known as Chlamydia trachomatis by Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT)).
  - Urine chlamydia tests and gonorrhea tests are a lot more pleasant than urethral or cervical swabs and are quickly becoming standard practice. The fact that STD testing was uncomfortable and invasive made it less likely that patients would undergo regular STD screening.

QP11-19

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