



**HIV, HEPATITIS C, STD, AND
TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION
RESOURCE GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY
AND CLINICAL PROVIDERS**

Rhode Island Department of Health

Revised June 2023

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Condom Distribution

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) operates a statewide condom distribution system. Individuals can obtain free condoms through our condoms by mail program or by visiting community organizations.



In 2020, RIDOH began a free condoms by mail program. A package of about 15 condoms will be sent directly to any address in Rhode Island in a discrete envelope. To request condoms for individuals, visit: www.health.ri.gov/findcondoms. Pocket cards with the link for free condoms by mail are also available in bulk for distribution.

RIDOH also provides free condoms to organizations that serve populations that are disproportionately impacted by sexually transmitted diseases. If your organization would like to become an official member of the condom distribution program, please complete this form: <https://surveys.health.ri.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=PY4XJTTRKK>, and you will be contacted by RIDOH staff to set up condom distribution for your organization.

Contact Person:

Bill Lyman

401-222-7548

William.Lyman@health.ri.gov

Community-Based Rapid HIV and Hepatitis C Testing

RIDOH contracts with non-profit groups to provide rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing in community locations. All testing is free.

HIV Testing Information and Locations

<https://health.ri.gov/hivtest/>

Hepatitis C Testing Information and Locations

<https://health.ri.gov/hepc/>



RIDOH requires that all individuals that are conducting testing at a state-funded HIV and Hepatitis C community-based location be certified in how to conduct these tests. For more information about the certification process, please contact us.

Contact Person:

Bill Lyman

401-222-7548

William.Lyman@health.ri.gov

Needle Exchange and Resources for People Who Use Drugs



RIDOH contracts with AIDS Care Ocean State (ACOS) to operate a statewide needle exchange/drug user health program called ENCORE (Education, Needle Exchange, Counseling, Outreach, and Referrals). They provide safe injection equipment (including sterile syringes), wound care kits, hygiene kits, condoms, naloxone, HIV/hepatitis C rapid testing, in addition to counseling and referral services. They have one fixed site located at 557 Broad St. Providence, RI, 02907. In addition, they conduct street and mobile outreach throughout the state, home deliveries to any Rhode Island address, and their newest initiative is harm reduction vending machines (see next page).

AIDS Care Ocean State provides both walk-in hours and appointments for harm reduction services. For the latest information on these times please visit ACOS' website: <https://aidscaeos.org/services/prevention-center/needle-exchange>

ACOS Contact Person

Ray Joseph

401-781-0665

rayj@aidscaeos.org

RIDOH Contact Person:

Katie Howe

401-222-7551

Katharine.Howe@health.ri.gov

Harm Reduction Vending Machines (HRVM)

AIDS Care Ocean State (ACOS) Prevention Center has created vending machines that are being used to dispense and distribute harm reduction supplies. These machines will be able to dispense free prevention and harm reduction tools including sterile needles, condoms, Naloxone (Narcan), wound care, hygiene supplies and fentanyl test strips. Many of the vending machines allow for 24/7 access for individuals who may be looking for supplies. To access the supplies in the machine individuals are asked to enroll with ACOS, then they can access any of the machines



There are currently 4 Harm Reduction Vending Machine locations:

Thundermist Health Center of West Warwick – 186 Providence Street, West Warwick, RI (available 24 hours)

CODAC Healthcare Center of Providence – 349 Huntington Avenue, Providence, RI (available 24 hours)

ACOS Providence – 557 Broad Street, Providence, RI (available 24 hours)

Providence Community Health Centers – Atwood – 31 Atwood Street, Providence, RI 02909 (available 24 hours)

For more Information on HRVMs and how to register yourself for vending machine use, visit the ACOS Website: www.aidscaeos.org/services/prevention-center

Listen to a [podcast](#) about HRVMs: **Public Health Out Loud: Not Your Average Vending Machine, April 2022.** <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/not-your-average-vending-machine-how-rhode-island-dispenses/id1541663781?i=1000557736071>

ACOS Contact Person

Ray Joseph

401-781-0665

rayj@aidscareos.org

RIDOH Contact Person:

Katie Howe

401-222-7551

Katharine.Howe@health.ri.gov

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General Public Health Education Materials, App, Videos, and Links

RIDOH has a variety of free hard copy materials, videos, and website links that provide information on HIV and STD Prevention.



- Visit [RIghtTime app website](#) or download the app on [Google Play](#) or [App store](#) (www.righttimeapp.com)
- [STD General Information \(English\)](#) and [STD General Information \(Spanish\)](#)
- [HIV General Information \(English\)](#) and [HIV General Information Spanish](#)
- RIDOH has a dedicated webpage with [Sexual Health Information for Gay/Bisexual Men and Gender Diverse People](#).
- RIDOH YouTube Playlists:
 - [Rhode Island Health Playlist](#) (www.youtube.com/user/RhodeIslandHealth/playlists)
 - [RIDOH Health Playlist](#) (www.youtube.com/user/RIDOHealth/playlists)

Links:

- English STD information: <https://health.ri.gov/sti>
- Spanish STD information: <https://health.ri.gov/ets>
- English HIV information: <https://health.ri.gov/hiv>
- Spanish HIV information: <http://health.ri.gov/vih>
- Sexual Health Information for Gay/Bisexual Men and Gender Diverse People: <https://health.ri.gov/sex/for/gaymen/>

Contact Person:

Aaron Frechette

Aaron.Frechette@health.ri.gov

401-222-7624

RIghtTime App

From STD prevention to pregnancy, the RIghtTime app has the information you need about sexual health and well-being in Rhode Island. Our app lets you find information, contact experts, and even locate testing and treatment information.

Download the [RIghtTime mobile app](#), available on [Google Play](#) for Android devices and the [Apple App store](#), or access the web app at www.righttimeapp.com. Pocket cards with the link above are also available in bulk for distribution.



Data and Surveillance

RIDOH collects, analyzes, and publishes reports on trends in HIV, STDs, Hepatitis C, and Tuberculosis.

For more information, see the 2021 HIV, STD, Hepatitis C, and Tuberculosis surveillance report:

<https://health.ri.gov/publications/surveillance/2021/HIVSTI.pdf>

If you are looking for specific data, you may submit a data request:

STD, TB, and Hepatitis C Data and Surveillance Contact:

Caroline Gummo, MHS

401-222-1114

Caroline.Gummo@health.ri.gov

HIV Data and Surveillance Contact:

Lila Bhattarai, MPH

401-222-7539

Lila.Bhattarai@health.ri.gov



Hepatitis C, STD, HIV and TB Case Reporting

In accordance with state regulations, all cases of **Hepatitis C, HIV, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and Tuberculosis** are required to be reported to the RIDOH within **4 Days** of recognition or suspicion of infection using the corresponding case report form. Also, RIDOH requires the reporting of pregnancies among people living with these infectious diseases.



- Hepatitis C Case Report Form
<https://health.ri.gov/forms/reporting/cases/CommunicableDiseases.pdf>
- STD Case Report Form
<https://health.ri.gov/forms/reporting/cases/sexuallytransmitteddiseases.pdf>
- Adult HIV Confidential Case Report Form (ages 13 and up)
<https://health.ri.gov/forms/reporting/cases/adulthivaidsc Confidentialcase.pdf>
- Perinatal HIV Exposure Case Report Form
<https://health.ri.gov/forms/reporting/cases/perinatalhivexposurereportform.pdf>
- HIV Transfer of Care Report Form
<https://health.ri.gov/forms/reporting/cases/hiv-transfer-care.pdf>
- Tuberculosis reporting: If you have a case of Tuberculosis to report please work with the RISE TB clinic – details on Page 13

Mailing address:

Rhode Island Department of Health
Center for HIV, Hepatitis, STDs, and TB Epidemiology
3 Capitol Hill
Room 106
Providence, RI 02908

If you have specific questions, please contact us:

Hepatitis C, STD, and TB Reporting Contact:

Caroline Gummo, MHS

401-222-1114

Caroline.Gummo@health.ri.gov

STD dedicated fax number: 401-222-1105

STD Secure Email: ridoh.stdfax1105@health.ri.gov

HIV Reporting Contact:

Lila Bhattarai, MPH

401-222-7539

Lila.Bhattarai@health.ri.gov

HIV dedicated fax number: 401-222-6001

STD Clinical Specialty Care

RIDOH has a relationship with The Miriam Hospital STD Clinic to provide walk-in STD/HIV clinical testing and care.

The organizational website can be found at: <http://www.doitright.org/>



Contact Person:

Alexi Almonte

401-793-2007

aalmonte@lifespan.org

TESTING 1-2-3

RIDOH has created an online HIV, STI and Hepatitis C testing system called TESTING 1-2-3 that promotes regular HIV, STI and Hepatitis C testing by use of a user-friendly website. This site helps residents set up HIV, STI, and Hepatitis C testing appointments in 3 easy steps. Residents simply complete an online form, go to the lab of their choice for testing, and await their results by secure email or phone. Note that TESTING 1-2-3 is for asymptomatic testing only and is typically covered by insurance, but it is not free. If residents are symptomatic, they should visit provider locations listed on the TESTING 1-2-3 website.



For more information on TESTING 1-2-3 and answers to frequently asked questions, visit <https://www.testing123ri.com>.

Contact Person:

Alexi Almonte

401-793-2007

aalmonte@lifespan.org

Free and Low-Cost Testing

RIDOH has partnered with local clinical providers to provide eligible residents with free or low-cost STD and HIV testing. Contact the providers below to determine eligibility for free and reduced-cost testing:



- The Miriam Hospital STI Clinic - <https://www.lifespan.org/centers-services/infectious-diseases/sexually-transmitted-infections-clinic>
- Planned Parenthood of Southern New England - <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-southern-new-england>
- Providence Community Health Centers - <https://www.providencechc.org/>
- Blackstone Valley Community Health Center - <https://www.bvchc.org/>
- Open Door Health - <https://odhpvd.org/>
- Thundermist Health Center - <https://www.thundermisthealth.org/>
- Tri-County Health Center - <https://tricityri.org/services/health-centers-lab/>

Partner Services

RIDOH provides services to assist individuals who have HIV, Syphilis, Gonorrhea and Chlamydia to contact their partners to facilitate testing. These services are provided in conjunction with health care providers. Providers may also advise patients to utilize the RightTime app or www.tellyourpartner.org (which powers the notification tool on the RightTime app) to notify partners of STD exposure via anonymous text or email.



Contact for Partner Services:

Benjamin LaFazia

401-222-2594

Benjamin.LaFazia@health.ri.gov

Expedited Partner Therapy

As of 2010, Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT), has been offered to Rhode Island Residents. EPT can be used to ensure effective partner treatment and help prevent reinfection. Currently, lack of effective partner treatment is the greatest risk factor for Chlamydial and Gonococcal reinfection.

For more information regarding EPT, provider guidelines and suggestions, use the [Expedited Partner Therapy Guide:](#)

<https://health.ri.gov/publications/guidelines/provider/2011expeditedpartnertherapy.pdf>

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HIV Return to Care



Clinical medical providers and non-clinical case management agencies who care for people living with HIV may refer patients who have fallen out of care for assistance by RIDOH staff in locating and re-engaging patients.

Providers should complete the HIPAA-compliant [RIDOH HIV Return to Care Patient Referral Form](#), for all HIV patients who have not been seen or have not had a lab test within the last 6 months. This form should be mailed to the provided address at RIDOH.

Link for RIDOH HIV Return to Care Patient Referral Form:

<https://surveys.health.ri.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=JYY7CXW84D>

Contact Person:

Meghan MacAskill

401-222-4756 or 401-332-9119

Meghan.MacAskill@health.ri.gov

Uber Health

RIDOH now offers Uber Health! Clinical providers may reach out to the RIDOH team to request a ride at no cost to the patient, for any patient diagnosed with Tuberculosis, Hepatitis C, HIV, and/or Sexually Transmitted Diseases, who may need help getting to and from a medical appointment. Appointments must be related to the testing, treatment and/or follow-up of those infections.

UBER Health

Uber Health is a HIPAA-compliant way of requesting rides, and ensures that patients can get to their appointments in a timely manner. The only information that is shared with the Uber driver is the patient's first name, pick-up location and destination, and drivers are unaware that the health department has requested the ride, further improving patient privacy.

**Please note that all Uber Health rides are subject to approval by the Field Services Manager and are only available for patients diagnosed with HIV, HCV, STD or non-infectious TB.*

Contact Person:

Johana Ramos

401-639-3438

401-222-5970

Johana.Ramos@health.ri.gov

Rhode Island's Confidentiality of Health Care Communications and Information Act

The Confidentiality of Health Care Communications and Information Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-37.3-12, § 5-37.3-12, went into effect on Jan. 1, 2022. The goal of this Statute is to ensure that all individuals have access and adequate privacy in their healthcare and documentation of healthcare services.

Many insurance companies routinely send Explanations of Benefits (EOB) to the policyholder's home address when a subscriber on the plan receives a healthcare service. The EOB describes the service and lists the service provider. By default, the EOB is sent to the policyholder's mailing address.

Under this law, health insurers (not including self-insured plans) are required to offer a confidential communications request form to be easily readable and prominently displayed on the health insurer's website. This form allows an insured person to request any medical information sent by an insurer to be communicated to an alternate address, secure email address, or alternate phone number, so it is sent directly to the patient who received the service instead of the policyholder.

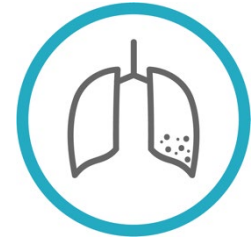
Please call your insurer with any questions and to request their confidential communications request form or download the applicable insurance company's form using the links below:

- [Aetna](#)
- [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island](#)
- [Cigna](#)
- [Neighborhood Health Plan](#)
- [UnitedHealthcare](#)

TB Resources

RISE Clinic

The RISE Clinic is the state-funded TB clinic in Rhode Island. Patients with suspect or confirmed TB disease or LTBI (Latent Tuberculosis Infection) can be referred to the RISE Clinic for specialty care. The RISE Clinic is a referral only clinic; walk-ins and patient self-referrals are not accepted.



To refer a patient to the RISE Clinic, the provider must complete [the referral form](#), confirm the appointment time with the patient, and fax the form to the RISE Clinic. Contact the RISE Clinic to obtain available appointments and facilitate appropriate triage.

RISE Clinic Referral Form Link:

<https://health.ri.gov/forms/medical/Tuberculosisreferral.pdf>

The RISE Clinic will triage the patient. If you suspect that the patient has active TB and/or an abnormal chest x-ray, you must speak with the RISE Clinic physician to discuss the case. The RISE staff will then collect any pertinent information so that the patient can be seen as soon as possible.

For more information about the RISE Clinic and contact information visit the RISE Clinic Website: <https://www.lifespan.org/centers-services/tuberculosis-rise-clinic>

Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) Program

Directly observed therapy (DOT) is the standard of care for all TB disease cases in the state. Upon receiving a report of a new TB disease case and a prescription from the TB clinician for the case, the [TB Program](#) will match the case with a DOT outreach worker based on culture and language needs. Every treatment dose will be administered to the patient under direct observation by the DOT outreach worker.

TB Program website: https://health.ri.gov/programs/detail.php?pgm_id=166

Contact Person:

Jill Lamantia, R.N.

401-222-1113

Jill.Lamantia@health.ri.gov

Looking for someone to talk to with specifics?

Resource	Contact Person	E-mail/Phone
Condom Distribution	Bill Lyman	William.Lyman@health.ri.gov 401-222-7548
Needle Exchange and Resources for People Who Use Drugs	RIDOH Contact Person: Katie Howe ACOS Contact Person: Ray Joseph	Katharine.Howe@health.ri.gov 401-222-7551 rayj@aidscareos.org 401-781-0665
General Public Health Education	Aaron Frechette (Videos/Online)	Aaron.Frechette@health.ri.gov 401-222-7624
STD, Hepatitis C, and TB Data, Surveillance, and Case Reporting	Caroline Gummo, MHS	Caroline.Gummo@health.ri.gov 401-222-1114
HIV Data, Surveillance and Case Reporting	Lila Bhattarai, MPH	Lila.Bhattarai@health.ri.gov 401-222-7539
STD Partner Services and Transportation Services	Benjamin LaFazia	Benjamin.LaFazia@health.ri.gov 401-222-2594
HIV Partner Services	Meghan MacAskill	Meghan.MacAskill@health.ri.gov 401-222-4756 or 401-332-9119
STD Clinical Specialty Care	Alexi Almonte	aalmonte@lifespan.org 401-793-2007
STD/HIV/Hep C Clinical Consultation	Philip Chan, MD	Philip.Chan@health.ri.gov
Community-based Rapid HIV and Hepatitis C Testing	Bill Lyman	William.Lyman@health.ri.gov 401-222-7548
HIV Return to Care	Meghan MacAskill	Meghan.MacAskill@health.ri.gov 401-222-4756 or 401-332-9119
TB Resources	Jill Lamantia, RN	Jill.Lamantia@health.ri.gov 401-222-1113
Program and Policy Development	Tom Bertrand, MPH, MA	Thomas.Bertrand@health.ri.gov 401-222-4655
Still not sure who to contact?	Call the front desk – someone is available to take your call from Monday-Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM	401-222-2577