STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

AMY EPKEY
ACTING DIRECTOR

September 1, 2026

Dear Valued Partners:

Tackling the rate of HIV transmission is one of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) highest priorities. One of the most useful tools to do this is PEP, or Post Exposure Prophylaxis. Per guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), PEP is an antiretroviral medication regimen that is recommended for individuals without HIV infection who have experienced a potential HIV exposure in the last 72 hours.

Recommended antiretroviral regimens for PEP utilize commonly used HIV medications that prevent the HIV virus from replicating in the body to prevent new infections. These recommended medications are consistent with those recommended for use in cases of possible occupational exposure. When used as directed, PEP is highly effective at preventing new HIV infections when initiated within 72 hours of exposure (the sooner PEP can be initiated within this window, the better). This limited timeframe for initiation creates a situation where immediate action is crucial for improved patient outcomes.

MDHHS has developed statewide PEP guidelines to assist healthcare providers in the proper prescribing of PEP. Included with this letter you will find an excerpt document and a more comprehensive clinical guidance document. You can also find them online. Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

MDHHS asks healthcare providers and health systems to familiarize themselves with the guidelines and to share the information with colleagues and other medical professionals to improve overall knowledge and access to PEP. MDHHS finds that many hospital systems do not have access points for PEP or they only have protocols for PEP in cases of sexual assault and/or employees with occupational exposures. Limiting access and clinical protocols to only these populations is not in line with CDC guidance.

Thank you for your assistance and willingness to be informed about this important prevention method. If you have questions on how MDHHS can support you please contact Mark Schaecher, HIV Prevention Clinical Consultant, Bureau of HIV/STI Programs at SchaecherM@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Natasha Bagdasarian, MD, MPH, FIDSA, FACP
Chief Medical Executive

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Enclosures