



# Communicable Disease News

## February 14th is National Condom Day!

While we all know that February 14<sup>th</sup> is Valentine’s Day, the lesser known National Condom Day deserves its 15 minutes of fame. We often say ‘just use a condom,’ but the reality is rarely that simple. Your clients will likely have romance on the brain and now is a great time to discuss some of the finer points of condom use. Condoms are touted to be 98% effective, but that is with perfect use. Use the tips below to ensure effectiveness stays high.

- Store condoms in a cool, dry place
- Before it’s even open check the date and make sure there is a small pillow of air inside
- Never open the package with teeth, scissors, pocket knives or machetes
- Always use water-based lube with latex condoms
- Be aware that the active ingredient in spermicide increases the chances of contracting HIV
- The condom should be applied as soon as the penis is erect
- Pinch the tip! That area at the end is meant to catch the semen and won’t work as well if there is air trapped or gets pulled tight
- Save the flavored condoms for oral sex. The added sugars can cause vaginal yeast infections.

Condoms come in all shapes, sizes, and materials. There is no reason not to use one. And with hundreds of locations to get free condoms in Wyoming, including having them delivered to your home, your clients should never be caught without one.

To expand access to condom in your community please contact Molly Adami



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- National Hepatitis Action Plan..... 2
- PRISM/Web Updates.....2
- CAPPA News ..... 2
- Monthly Series ..... 3
- Case Manager’s Corner ..... 3
- Contact Us ..... 4

### IMPORTANT DATES

- February 7: National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- February 14: National Condom Day
- March 10: National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- March 20: National Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- March 24: World TB Day

## HHS RELEASES THE 2017-2020 NATIONAL HEPATITIS ACTION PLAN

Health and Human Services has released the updated plan which guides the Nation's fight against viral hepatitis. The updated plan outlines strategies to achieve the four main goals of the plan:

1. Prevent new viral hepatitis infections
2. Reduce deaths and improve the health of people living with viral hepatitis

3. Reduce viral hepatitis health disparities
4. Coordinate, monitor, and report on implementation of viral hepatitis activities.

To read the Action Plan in full, please visit: <https://www.hhs.gov/hepatitis/action-plan/u-s-viral-hepatitis-action-plan-overview/index.html>

### CAPPA NEWS

The Wyoming Comprehensive Care and Prevention Planning Alliance (CAPPA) is holding its first meeting of 2017 on February 27th. This will be a conference call for those who live outside of Cheyenne. If you live in Cheyenne and would like to participate, you can join the group in Room 400 of the CenturyLink Building from 11am-1pm. If you are interested in joining the group or just this call, please contact Debi Anderson at 307.777.7529. Below is the meeting schedule for the remainder of the year. You can also find information at <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/communicable-disease-unit/hiv-aids/hiv-services-program/>.

April 28-30: Cody

August 4-6: Cheyenne, Data Meeting

October 21-22: Casper

### PRISM AND WEBSITE NEWS

The Unit has been working on creating a PRISM manual for use within clinics. This will be a useful resource for reference for both new and existing users when it comes to PRISM. This manual will not replace the online training modules for PRISM that new users are required to take. The main purpose of this resource is to include step by step instructions and explanations for different tasks within the system including building profiles, field records, adding labs and interviews. If you have any questions about PRISM or the PRISM manual please call Angela Vaughn at 307-777-7953. We will continue to keep providers updated on the progress of the PRISM manual and are hoping to have it circulated in the near future.

The Unit is also in the process of updating the unit website. Most of the changes within the site will not be geared towards altering the content of the site, but instead will focus on making the site easier to navigate, updating content and making it more readable overall. Over the past month some small updates have been made to the website, however, within the next couple of months the website will have new pages and new locations for many of the links and documents. If you are having trouble finding any pages or documents in the website please call Angela Vaughn at 307-777-7953.

## CASE MANAGER'S CORNER

Tax time is here and some of your clients will need to file for the first time. Many clients may qualify for free tax preparation assistance. Resources are available at [www.IRS.gov/VITA](http://www.IRS.gov/VITA) or [www.IRS.gov/freefile](http://www.IRS.gov/freefile).

Clients who were enrolled in a 2016 Marketplace health plan should be receiving a Form 1095-A in the mail the first part of February. This form contains important information to help consumers complete their 2016 federal income tax return including IRS form 8962. Remind them to keep an eye out for this important document!

IRS form 8962 is a required form for any individual who received a premium tax credit. It is used to figure the client premium tax credit and reconcile the amount if the client was receiving the advanced premium tax credit. The Communicable Disease Treatment Program requires all clients who received premium assistance to file their 2016 tax return by April 15, 2017. A complete copy of the final tax return must be sent to the program by May 1, 2017.

Clients who did not have health coverage for three or more months in 2016 may have a penalty to pay on their tax return. There are exemptions available; however, the client will need to apply for the exemption. Additional information on exemptions can be found at <https://www.healthcare.gov/fees-exemptions/exemptions-from-the-fee/>

For additional information on tax filing or the fee for not having insurance, resources are available at [www.HealthCare.gov/Taxes](http://www.HealthCare.gov/Taxes) or [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov).

### MONTHLY SERIES: THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE OF DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

#### Types of Surveillance

Most surveillance conducted by the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) is passive surveillance. **Passive Surveillance** does not use active means to solicit health information. Providers and laboratories are required to report certain conditions by state law.

In contrast, **active surveillance** requires the public health agency to directly seek data from healthcare and other providers. Active surveillance is generally time consuming and expensive, thus passive surveillance is the preferred method for most agencies.

A third type of surveillance is sentinel surveillance. **Sentinel surveillance** arranges for a sample of providers to report all cases of a disease. Sentinel events are those that alert public health officials of potential problems such as epidemics. Influenza reports are received by WDH through passive and sentinel surveillance.

## Contact Us:

Molly Adami	Field Epidemiologist	Molly.adami@wyo.gov	307-777-8939
Debi Anderson	Communicable Disease Unit Manager	Debi.anderson@wyo.gov	307-777-7529
Samantha Birch	Field Epidemiologist	Samantha.birch@wyo.gov	307-777-6563
Jennifer Casteel	Communicable Disease Office Support	Jennifer.casteel@wyo.gov	307-777-7585
Brianne Dunivent-Cronk	Communicable Disease Unit Specialist	Brianne.dunivent-cronk@wyo.gov	307-777-8005
Corrie Graham	Field Epidemiologist	Corrie.graham1@wyo.gov	307-777-7719
Shelley Hood	Communicable Disease Treatment Program Manager	Shelley.hood1@wyo.gov	307-777-5856
Toni Reeves	Communicable Disease Benefits Coordinator	Toni.reeves@wyo.gov	307-777-5800
Courtney Smith	Communicable Disease Surveillance Program Manager	Courtney.smith@wyo.gov	307-777-2434
Angela Vaughn	Communicable Disease Data and Training Coordinator	Angela.vaughn@wyo.gov	307-777-7953
Brittany Wardle	Communicable Disease Prevention Program Manager	Brittany.wardle@wyo.gov	307-777-3562