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The New York State Department of Health reports a 40% increase of preliminary syphilis cases for the first six months of 2014. Males account for 94% of total cases; 67% of those cases are gay men/MSM. Areas outside of the five boroughs of New York City which includes Long Island have the highest number of cases. To support the efforts of the NYS DOH to increase syphilis awareness, testing and prevention on Long Island, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care has crafted the following Agency Syphilis Response Plan:

Additional syphilis information brochures will be ordered in English and Spanish to be distributed in high-risk communities. Free condoms will be more accessible for people in the community living with or at-risk of contracting a sexual transmitted disease (STD). Infected individuals will be encouraged to work with the Suffolk and Nassau County local health departments, NYS Partner Services program. LIAAC's community health education curriculums will be revised to include syphilis education, testing and NYS Partner Services referral information. Our team of HIV, HCV and STI testers will include syphilis information in risk reduction counseling sessions and provide referral for free syphilis tests. Case managers and care coordinators will work closely with clients to promote syphilis awareness, testing and prevention strategies. Our Crisis Hotline will be equipped to provide syphilis referral information to clients and community callers. The agency's social media platforms such as LIAAC Facebook page, Website, Blog, Twitter and Pinterest boards will be used to promote syphilis awareness campaigns, free testing locations and links to CDC and NYS DOH website. In addition, syphilis awareness, testing and Partner Services referrals will be promoted to clients that are reached through various MSM social networking applications.

LIAAC understands the strong connection between syphilis and the transmission of HIV and the serious health problems that can develop if an individual goes untreated. For more information on syphilis awareness, testing and prevention strategies, visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LIAAC.inc/events> or visit our Twitter page at <https://twitter.com/LIAAC.inc>.

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