

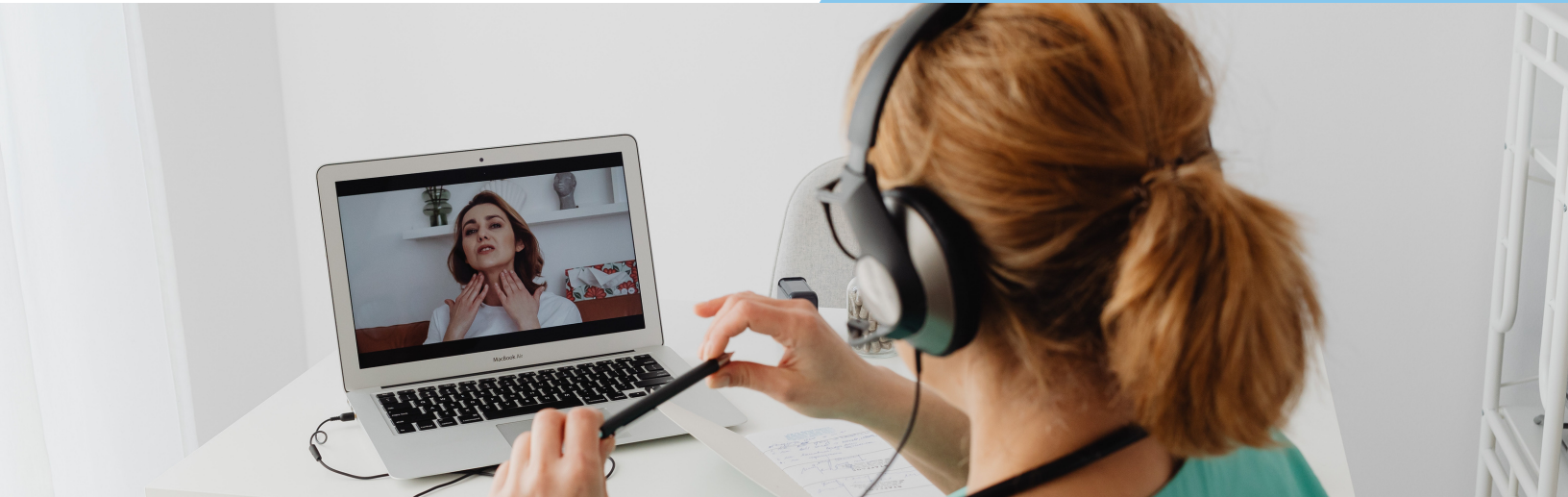
# HIV PREVENTION LEARNING COMMUNITY



Bimonthly Newsletter

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## February Newsletter

### LEARNING COMMUNITY GOALS

One of our goals with the learning community is to find ways to stay connected with you during the months between the live learning community (LC) sessions.

This newsletter will serve as a way to recap our last month's LC session, share additional resources, discuss ongoing issues of concern, and share information about next month's LC session. Have an idea to improve the newsletter or the live LC sessions? We would love to hear it!

### JANUARY RECAP

At January's LC, our topic was **tele-sexual health**. The COVID-19 pandemic forced clinics to get creative in how they delivered services. While it might have started as something clinics had to do, many clinics decided to continue offering telehealth services. At the LC, Caroline Carnevale, DNP, MPH, AAHIVS, shared tips and tricks for offering remote STI testing and treatment (including presumptive treatment and EPT), PrEP care, and HIV testing. Do you have questions about how to implement tele-sexual health services at your clinic? Let us know - we are here to help.



## TELEHEALTH RESOURCES

### TelePrEP:

- **Prime Health:** a toolkit for implementing telePrEP
- **HITEQ:** using telehealth to expand PrEP access
- **National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center:** TelePrEP brief

### Tele-Sexual Health:

- **CDC:** guidance and resources during disruption of STD clinical services
- **Essential Access Health:** telehealth essentials for sexual and reproductive health care
- **KFF:** online platforms for contraceptive and STI services



## NEXT MONTH'S LC

### Details:

- March 29th at 12-1pm EST
- Topic: Updated CDC PrEP Guidelines

### Reminder!

- Goal of LC is to have a discussion where clinics can learn from each other
- All participants keep cameras on. Need a webcam? Let us know!
- All participants contribute to the discussion
- 2-4 individuals per site participating



## ASK A CLINICIAN

**Question:** "Regarding the recently updated CDC PrEP Guidelines - HIV testing for both oral and injectable PrEP now includes both antigen/antibody test and viral load testing. In my practice, if we had to routinely check viral loads for all patients before starting PrEP and during routine monitoring, that would limit our ability to offer PrEP. We're a student health center and would either have to send patients to an outside lab so their insurance can be billed (we don't bill insurance or the patient for our in-house labs) or refer out for PrEP management. Is the viral load optional?"

**Answer:** "Yes, you are correct that the CDC has now recommended HIV viral load testing in addition to antibody/antigen tests for every visit while a person is taking PrEP (both tablet and injectable). While this is the recommendation, this may not be feasible in some clinical settings. Due to cost and logistical issues, many sites are not offering viral loads routinely or are only performing viral loads on select patients based on clinical judgement. While offering an HIV viral load is optimal, not being able to offer everyone a viral load should not discourage you from offering PrEP in your clinic."

*We will be discussing this more at next month's LC. What questions do you have about the updated PrEP guidelines? We want to hear them!*

Have a clinical question? Check out the clinical consultation line: [www.stdccn.org](http://www.stdccn.org)