



**CDPH Information:  
Increasing Disseminated Gonococcal  
Infections in California – Resources  
including a webinar on 2/23/21**

February 22, 2021

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**The information below is from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)**

In recent months, CDPH has received increasing reports of disseminated gonococcal infections (DGI), an uncommon but severe complication of untreated gonorrhea. CDPH is working with local health departments to investigate these cases of DGI, where some of the patients have reported experiencing homelessness and/or using illicit drugs, particularly methamphetamine. Providers should increase their clinical suspicion for DGI in patients with joint pain and follow the guidance in the December 23, 2020 [CDPH DGI Dear Colleague Letter for Clinicians](#), including holding GC isolates from DGI cases to submit to public health for additional testing.

Additionally, it is possible the increase in DGI cases reflects a decrease of STD screening, testing and treatment as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as opposed to a more virulent strain of gonorrhea being transmitted. Medical providers should reinstate routine screening recommendations for STDs in females <25 years of age, pregnant females, men who have sex with men, and individuals with HIV.

The CA Prevention Training Center has created a [DGI FAQ document for clinicians](#).

Finally, there is a webinar on DGI for CA healthcare providers on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 from 12:00pm-1:15pm (PST) **Mind the Clap: A Resurgence of Disseminated Gonococcal Infection?** [Register](#)

**Local reporting information**

- **Los Angeles County Department of Public Health:**
  - Promptly report suspect cases to DPH within 1 working day: call 213-368-7441 to report a case during regular business hours (8-5pm, Monday-Friday), and/or fax a LAC DPH [CMR](#) form to LAC DPH Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHS) at 213-749-9602.
- **Long Beach Health and Human Services:**
  - Fax a Long Beach [CMR](#) form to 562-570-4374 or call 562-570-4321.
- **Pasadena Public Health Department:**
  - Fax a Pasadena [CMR](#) form to 626-744-6115 or call 626-744-6043.

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