

Sexual Health Update

November 2024

Dual Testing and Emergency Contraception (EHC) Activity

During April -September 2024:

- **176** dual testing kits issued by the community pharmacies* were returned to the lab. This resulted in **21** positives for Chlamydia and **6** for Gonorrhoea.
- **1020** EHC provision or personal interactions
- Since the removal of the age cap, **509** EHC interactions were with females 25 years and above
- **83%** of EHC interactions resulted in no condoms given, despite **70%** (717) of females requesting EHC due to no contraception used
- No contraception used increases the risk of a Sexually Transmitted Infection. **76%** of EHC interactions resulted in no dual test kits given to the patient
- To improve access to STI testing and address increases in Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea diagnoses, dual testing kits should be offered to all patients requesting EHC

**Those who have a service specification with Hertfordshire County Council to deliver EHC, dual testing and condom distribution services (see below)*

Pharmacy	Test Returned	EHC	Pharmacy	Test Returned	EHC
Allied Pharmacy - Buntingford	2	1	Greenlight	3	22
Trinity Pharmacy	19	56	Elstree Pharmacy	1	7
Codicote Pharmacy	0	6	Wellswood Pharmacy	4	13
Tesco in-store Pharmacy (Royston)	3	17	Hubert Figg Pharmacy	5	12
Ashwell Pharmacy -	2	5	Rooneys Pharmacy	0	2
Birch Pharmacy	4	16	Bricket Wood Pharmacy	1	10
Boots - Letchworth	0	0	Crown Pharmacy	1	6
Globe Pharmacy	0	5	Jade Pharmacy	8	0
Jackmans Pharmacy	8	12	Bushey	0	2
Letchworth Pharmacy	3	15	Jhoots Pharmacy	2	12
Cheshunt Pharmacy	5	18	Normandy pharmacy	6	0
Clayton Pharmacy	4	48	Quadrant Pharmacy	7	39
Croft Chemist	0	13	Springfield Pharmacy	0	15
Laxtons Pharmacy	0	23	St. Albans Pharmacy	6	19
Bedwell Pharmacy	0	17	Topkins Pharmacy	6	7
Boots - Queensway Stevenage	5	74	Well Pharmacy	0	0
S L Anderson	1	19	Abbotswood Park Pharmacy	5	23
St Nicholas Pharmacy	2	0	Asda Watford	9	61
Stevenage Pharmacy	0	0	Cassiobury Pharmacy	1	20
Asda in-store Pharmacy	2	16	Chemilab Pharmacy	7	23
Boots - Hatfield	1	100	Esom Pharmacy	0	18
Johns & Kelynack	16	67	FT Taylor	8	50
Crescent Pharmacy	5	23	Leavesden Pharmacy	8	66
Ware Cross Pharmacy	0	12	Parade Pharmacy	6	16
Pyramid Pharmacy	0	1	Prestwick Pharmacy	0	0
			Vision	0	3
			Turdorken Pharmacy	0	0

Dual Testing Resources and Training

Public Health Hertfordshire in partnership with METRO Charity and Sexual Health Hertfordshire have updated and developed new resources to raise awareness of community dual testing services across Hertfordshire.

These were informed by primary research carried out with members of the public as well as community pharmacists who provided feedback on awareness, challenges and how to best deliver dual testing services.

Findings from a local survey undertaken by Healthwatch Hertfordshire, also highlighted people want access to a range of testing services both online and in the community but are unsure where and how to access them. Therefore, it's important that dual testing services are clearly promoted in your premises.

Shelf Box: These are now available, to make it easier for people to access a kit, without needing to ask a member of staff. A similar approach has been used in gym changing rooms, which has led to an increase people testing.



A **slide deck** for all pharmacy Staff has been produced to make them familiar with the dual testing service. Use staff meetings to remind them of the slide deck and ensure they understand the dual testing service.

There is also an 18-minute presentation for Lead Pharmacists on the Public Health Sexual Health Service Specification, which contains useful information and guidance.

About the dual tests

- A person should wait 2 weeks after they think they have been exposed to an infection, before taking the test. This is because Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea can take up to 2 weeks to be detected in a test
- The test includes a vaginal swab (female) or a urine test (male or female)
- A urine test should ideally be done at least 1 hour after the person last urinated
- Like a covid test, the relevant test is completed and is then returned in the pre-paid envelope
- Individuals can either come to a participating pharmacy, GP, Healthy Hub and Youth Services or request the test be sent to their home address
- See more information [here](#)

Hertfordshire

The slide deck, presentation and toolkit listing all the dual testing resources available can be downloaded from: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/dualtestprofessionals

Printed resources and training to deliver dual testing services can be requested from: sexualhealthhertfordshire@metrocharity.org.uk