



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

November 2016

Dear Provider:

On June 29, 2014, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo detailed a three-point plan to move us closer to the end of the AIDS epidemic in New York State. The goal is to reduce the number of new HIV infections to just 750 annually by the end of 2020 and achieve the first ever decrease in HIV prevalence in New York State.

The three-point plan:

1. Identifies persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed and links them to health care.
2. Links and retains persons diagnosed with HIV in health care to maximize virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent further transmission.
3. Facilitates access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for persons who engage in high-risk behaviors to keep them HIV negative.

On October 14, 2014, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced members of the Ending the Epidemic Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force was established to support Governor Cuomo's three-point plan. The Task Force developed and synthesized recommendations, presented in New York's Blueprint to end the epidemic. The ETE Blueprint is structured first to include the three points of the Governor's Plan, but also includes other recommendations to minimize new infections and inhibit disease progression.

Specifically, Blueprint [Recommendation 7](#) (BP7) calls for the use of client level data to identify and assist patients lost to care or not virally suppressed. Blueprint [Recommendation 5](#) (BP5) calls for the continuous monitoring and improvement of viral suppression rates. Matching and linking New York State HIV surveillance data to other non-connected data systems is a critical step towards implementing both BP7 and BP5.

In order to support the ETE Blueprint recommendations, the AIDS Institute will be implementing a new client level, identifiable data extract into the AIDS Institute Reporting System (AIRS). This data extract will be generated in addition to the existing data extracts that your agency currently submits through AIRS. The information contained in the new data extract will be matched against the New York State HIV Surveillance system and will provide valuable information on linkage to care, retention in care, and viral load suppression for clients served by AIDS Institute programs.

The new extract will contain client names, date of birth, and other identifiable information. This extract will be securely submitted on a monthly basis via the Health Commerce System and will be handled by the AIDS Institute in accordance with all Federal and State confidentiality and security laws and



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regulations. The AIDS Institute's Bureau of HIV/AIDS Epidemiology (BHAЕ) will manage the processing and maintenance of these files. BHAЕ is the organizational unit within the NYS Department of Health responsible for receiving reports of HIV infection from providers across the state containing protected health and personally identifiable information.

Detailed instructions for generating and submitting the new data extract will be distributed directly to your agency's program staff and AIRS technical staff. We anticipate beginning this process in December 2016.

AIRS has been the primary reporting system used by AIDS Institute funded providers for over two decades. The data provided has proven invaluable to the AIDS Institute for program planning, evaluation, and quality as well as meeting Federal and State reporting mandates. The additional extract outlined above will only further New York State's ability to ensure quality programs and will bring us one step further towards recognizing the goal of ending the epidemic in New York State. Please contact John Fuller if you have any questions at: john.fuller@health.ny.gov or (518) 474-8404.

Sincerely,

Johanne E. Morne, MS
Director
AIDS Institute