



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

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

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

May 4, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute (AI) in collaboration with AI funded providers have expanded and adapted the current in-home HIV Test Giveaway (HHTG) program utilizing HIV Self-Testing (HIVST) kits to ensure HIV screening is available while maintaining social distancing. The HHTG will provide a virtual platform for our community based organizations to continue to support HIV prevention and vital linkage to care services during the COVID-19 crisis. **The program launched on Wednesday, April 15, 2020.** As a critical partner in ending the AIDS epidemic in NYS, we encourage your participation.

This campaign will be advertised through agency social media platforms. Campaign ads will include a link to an online eligibility survey. If the participant is determined to be **eligible**, they will be asked to provide their email address where they will receive a discount code and instructions for redeeming a free HIV home test kit via OraSure's website. If the participant is determined to be **ineligible**, they will be referred to the AI website where there will be additional resources and information related to HIV testing.

The AI is requesting your assistance once again to help raise community awareness. Please share the attached materials and use the <https://bit.ly/NYPausedHHTG> hyperlink to the online eligibility survey for the HHTG from your agency and/or program website(s), social media sites, etc.

Should you have any questions regarding this correspondence or the HIV Home Test Giveaway, please contact Susan Flavin directly at susan.flavin@health.ny.gov. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment during these trying times.

Sincerely,

Johanne E. Morne, MS
Director
AIDS Institute