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From: STIHIVHEP

Sent: Wed 10/14/2020 3:25:05 PM

Subject: Survey assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on testing for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections in the WHO European Region

Received: Wed 10/14/2020 3:25:32 PM

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below an invitation from the EuroTEST project to participate in a European-region survey on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on testing services for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections. They are seeking input from several entities and levels of healthcare working with one or more of these diseases, including from National Public Health Institutes/Ministries of health. Please consider whether you or colleagues working at national level can respond on behalf of your country to provide information on how the COVID-19 pandemic may have affected testing services.

ECDC is involved as a collaborator in this effort and we hope to use the results to better understand disease surveillance trends and country support needs in the area of testing for HIV, viral hepatitis and STI.

Best regards,

5.1.2e, 5.1.2e, 5.1.2e and 5.1.2e, on behalf of the ECDC Programme for STI, blood-borne viruses and tuberculosis



European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

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From: RH-FP-EuroTEST <5.1.5@regionh.dk>

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Subject: Survey assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on testing for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections in the WHO European Region

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the [EuroTEST Steering Committee co-chairs](#), we invite you to **participate in a European-region survey assessment to measure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on testing services for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections.**

The COVID-19 pandemic, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, has had profound effects across health systems worldwide, and many HIV, viral hepatitis and/or sexually transmitted infection (STI) services have been interrupted. As a result, a consortium of partners, led by [EuroTEST](#), including regional European and international organisations representing community, health care and public health institutions have developed an assessment to understand how this global crisis has affected testing services, in particular, and how to mitigate its effects on the responses to the epidemics going forward.

The main objective of the survey is to assess the impact of COVID-19 on testing for HIV, HBV, HCV, chlamydia, syphilis and gonorrhoea among the different actors of the testing response including:

- laboratories
- secondary/specialist care
- primary health care units
- community organizations providing testing for one or more of these infections
- National level public health institutions or ministry of health level.

More info and the full list of partners can be found [here](#)

Results will be used to inform advocacy efforts as well as next steps in the regional response to HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs. Results from this assessment will be developed into several publications planned for 2020 and early 2021.

The survey is available in English and Russian, contains 26 main questions (depending on type of service) and will take around 20 minutes to complete. It will be open for responses until **1 November 2020**.

If you or your site provide testing for one or several of these infections, or if you work at a national level public health institution or Ministry of Health and are responsible for HIV and/or viral hepatitis and/or STIs in your country, we encourage you to take the survey by [clicking here](#) or copy pasting the following link into your browser: <https://is.gd/EuroTESTCOVID19impact>

We also invite you to disseminate the survey through your networks and contacts.

If you have any questions, please contact the EuroTEST secretariat at eurotest.rigshospitalet@regionh.dk.

In parallel, the WHO Regional Office for Europe has launched a call to collect good practices on the response to TB, HIV and viral Hepatitis during the COVID-19 pandemic, which will remain open until December 31, 2020. If you are interested in submitting to their call, you can access their best practice submission portal by [clicking here](#).

Thank you in advance for your time and responses.

On behalf of the EuroTEST Steering committee co-chairs,

5.1.2e

5.1.2e

EuroTEST Secretariat

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