

**Heidi Hedberg**  
Commissioner

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**STATE OF ALASKA**

**JOINT RELEASE**

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### **Health care providers invited to a virtual learning opportunity for HIV prevention**

*Integrate pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) into your clinical practice to reduce new HIV infections.*

March 30, 2023, ANCHORAGE —The State of Alaska Department of Health and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) are partnering on HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) training to encourage health care providers to incorporate this HIV prevention medication into their practices. PrEP is an antiviral drug that helps prevent people without HIV from acquiring the infection.

The state and ANTHC will host four trainings on PrEP this April for: primary care providers, specialty care providers, family practitioners and other health care workers who would like to learn more. The mini-series is a special presentation of the existing Alaska Infectious Disease ECHO video conference series (AK ID ECHO), and will take place over the lunch hour, 12-1 PM, each Tuesday in April:

- **April 4** - *Integrating PrEP into Your Clinical Practice*
- **April 11** - *PrEP Considerations for Special Populations (adolescents, pregnancy, patients with comorbidities and/or renal issues, etc.)*
- **April 18** - *Incorporating Sex Positivity and Cultural Responsibility into Your Clinical Practice & a PrEP User Experience Panel*
- **April 25** - *Putting PrEP into Practice: A Panel of Alaska Provider Experiences*

“Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis is one tool we can use to reduce the number of new HIV infections within our communities, along with many other harm reduction strategies, such as safe sex and substance use practices, vaccinations and knowing your STI/HIV status through screenings,” said Leah Besh, PA, of ANTHC Early Intervention Services. “Additionally, we all need to play a part in reducing stigma around HIV/STI discussions. The more knowledgeable, honest and open discussions we have with our patients and community partners, the better our communities’ health will be.”

Kamala Stiner, R.N., HIV/STD Program Manager with the Division of Public Health’s Section of Epidemiology, added, “Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis is a powerful tool that has the potential to alter the course of HIV infections

in Alaska. The use of PrEP for HIV prevention requires continuing collaboration between providers and patients, and this ECHO series was developed to offer Provider support around PrEP.”

Anyone interested in participating in the trainings is encouraged to register [here](#).

Accredited continued education credit is available.



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