Cabinet Secretary



## **NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT**

## New HIV infections associated with former VIP Spa in Albuquerque

June 26, 2023

**Background:** The New Mexico Department of Health continues to investigate a cluster of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections among persons who received cosmetic procedures involving blood products, injections, and infusions at an Albuquerque business, VIP Spa, in 2018. The VIP Spa closed on September 7, 2018 after an inspection by the NMDOH and the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department, Barbers and Cosmetologists Board identified practices that could potentially spread bloodborne infections, such as HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C to clients. Despite extensive outreach and testing of over 100 VIP Spa clients during the initial investigation in 2018, a former VIP Spa client recently tested positive for HIV. The individual had not previously been tested which raises concerns that there may be others who have not yet been diagnosed.

Genetic sequencing of cases linked to the VIP spa confirm that they are a unique, highly related cluster of HIV infections among people without other risk factors or any relationship to each other.

**Recommendations for Clinicians:** HIV and viral hepatitis infections are notifiable conditions, and all new infections should be immediately reported to the New Mexico Department of Health.

New infections among people without other risk factors for HIV or viral hepatitis should be questioned about a history of cosmetic procedures involving infusions, blood products, or injections such as "vampire facials", "células madre", platelet-rich plasma (PRP), and Botox or fillers at spas or salons as a possible source of infection. Please contact NMDOH at the 24/7/365 epidemiology hotline (505) 827-0006 about cases with suspected spa or salon exposures so that NMDOH can initiate a public health investigation. Encourage your patients who have a history of these procedures to undergo screening for HIV and viral hepatitis infections.

NMDOH is conducting additional outreach and testing for the community that frequented the VIP Spa.

## **Additional Resources:**

- General Guidance on HIV screening: <u>Recommendation: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)</u> <u>Infection: Screening | United States Preventive Services Taskforce</u> (uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org)
- 2. <u>HIV Surveillance & Epidemiology Program</u> webpage for contact information, case reporting forms, instructions, and FAQs.
- 3. CDC HIV resources
- 4. NMDOH Notifiable Conditions: <a href="https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/regulation/372/">https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/regulation/372/</a>

<u>New Mexico Health Alert Network</u>: To register for the NM Health Alert Network, please visit the following site <a href="https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjZ/10b2">https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjZ/10b2</a></u> Please fill out the registration form completely and click Submit at the bottom of the page, to begin receiving Important health alerts, advisories, and updates.

<u>Please Note</u> that our system also utilizes text messaging to notify members of important health information. Due to FCC Regulation changes that are designed to decrease the amount of unwanted spam text messages sent each year to citizens, please save, this phone number (855) 596-1810 as the "New Mexico Health Alert Network" default phone number for your account used for text messages on the mobile device(s) you register with us.