



NHS Norfolk
and NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney

Sexual Health Promotion Unit

Kestrel House
White Lodge Business Park
Hall Road
Norwich, NR4 6DG

Tel: 01603 221838

Fax: 01603 221832

Email: shpu@norfolk.nhs.uk

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Dear Headteacher/Principal

I am writing to ensure that all staff in your school or college responsible for the health and well being of their students, are aware that the NHS Norfolk and Waveney Chlamydia Screening Office is in the process of sending DIY Chlamydia screening kits to every young person aged 16-24years in the area. This is taking place over a period of weeks so not every young person will have received a kit at the time of writing, whilst others may have received one some time ago.

Given the high rates of infection locally (as many as 1 in 14 young people in this age group have chlamydia), the NHS regards screening as an important sexual health initiative which may prevent undiagnosed Chlamydia leading to infertility later in life.

Sending a kit directly to a young person in this way neither assumes that they are sexually active, nor singles any one out. Taking the test is voluntary and unused kits can be returned at no cost to the young person. However a direct mail out of kits is seen as a useful way in a rural county, of ensuring that access to screening is easily accessible to all and sends out a powerful message that screening for a common STI is a normal and routine part of taking care of one's health.

NHS Norfolk and NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCTs, the Chlamydia Screening Office and the Sexual Health Promotion Unit need your support in making this as cost effective and successful an initiative as possible and would like to suggest a couple of ways in which this could be done with little effort on your part.

As a minimum the enclosed and very discreet reminder poster could be displayed somewhere suitable in the school, for example the Sixth Form Common Room. The school could also make good use of other effective and targeted communication channels with students, for example E Mail, E-Notice boards, tutor groups or similar, encouraging students to complete a screen if they've been sent one.

Incorporating discussion of the purpose and value of completing a test into a lesson or health event led by an informed and committed member of staff may also be very effective, as could be the influence of well informed peer counsellors or educators.

Should you wish it we have and will provide on request, an "off the peg" Chlamydia screening lesson plan by E Mail for any member of staff interested in delivering it. Any Sexual Health Promotion Specialist from this Unit can answer your questions or requests for more information about Chlamydia and the test. We can also visit schools and colleges to run a "Pee in a Pot" (PIP) event, where students can take the test on site.

Enquiries about hosting a PIP to Liz Craske on Tel: 01603 221805

Finally I would like to let schools and colleges know about a new NHS booklet for young people about sexual health services in their area. Copies will be available from March 2011 through the Health Information Leaflet Service on www.heron.nhs.uk, or the Sexual Health Promotion Unit on application, and we are happy to supply as many as needed to support your PHSE programme, health event or school based health service.

Should you have any queries about this or any other initiative mentioned in this letter, or would like information about how to encourage your students to screen now or later in the year, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Suki Dell
Sexual health promotion Practitioner Specialist



KEEP CALM AND DO THE TEST

areyou
gettingit
com

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the UK.
We'll be sending you a testing kit in the post.... stay calm and be clear.

www.aryougettingit.com