# STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor
Christopher E. Urbina, MD, MPH
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

July 16, 2012

**NOTA:** Para obtener esta información en español llame al 1-877-462-2911.

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has learned that unsafe re-use of syringes and needles occurred at the offices of Dr. Stephen M. Stein, an oral surgeon, between September 1999 and June 2011. Syringes and needles were re-used on multiple patients to give intravenous (IV) medications, including sedation. You are receiving this letter because medical records indicate that you (or a member of your household) were a patient of Dr. Stein during that time and may have been exposed to viruses transmitted through blood.

The unsafe practices occurred at the following office locations:

- Between September 1999 and June 2011 at Stein Oral and Facial Surgery, 8671 South Quebec Street, #230, Highlands Ranch, CO 80130.
- Between August 2010 and June 2011 at Stein Oral and Facial Surgery, 3737 East 1st Avenue, Suite B, Denver, CO 80206. Patients were also seen at this location by Dr. Stein under the name New Image Dental Implant Center.

All patients of Dr. Stein who received IV medications at either of the above oral surgery offices between September 1999 and June 2011 might have been exposed to viruses transmitted through blood. It is unclear which patients of Dr. Stein might have received IV medications. It is not possible to determine specifically which patients were exposed. **As a precaution, and to take appropriate steps to protect your health, if you received IV medications from Dr. Stein at one of the offices above between September 1999 and June 2011, we recommend you get tested for HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C. If you are uncertain whether or not you received IV medications, we also recommend you are tested.** If you did not receive IV medications, we do not recommend testing.

People infected with viruses like HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C may not have symptoms for many years. It is possible you might have been infected and not know it. Even though you may not feel ill or remember getting sick, if you received IV medications at one of Dr. Stein's offices and during the times listed above, you should get a blood test to make sure you are not infected. Knowing whether you are infected is important, so you can be treated if your test results are positive. Testing cannot determine where or how you became infected (at Dr. Stein's offices or from another exposure). To date, there have been no specific infections linked to these offices.

We recommend you contact your healthcare provider for testing. If your blood test is positive, your provider will be able to best advise you on what to do. Please bring this letter with you and give it to your healthcare provider. Information for your provider is included at the end of this letter.

We understand that this may be an upsetting situation for you. You and your family may have more questions or concerns about the information in this letter. If you have questions, please call the Colorado Help Line at 1-877-462-2911. You may also visit the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment website at http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/.

Sincerely,

Christopher E. Urbina, MD, MPH
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer

**Specific instructions for Healthcare Providers:**

Dear Health Care Provider:

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is investigating unsafe injection practices occurring at two oral surgery clinics in the Denver metropolitan area. Your patient was identified through clinic records as having been potentially exposed to bloodborne pathogens through the improper reuse of syringes and needles on multiple patients during the administration of IV medications. Based on our investigation, syringe and needle re-use was identified only during the administration of IV medications. **We currently recommend that if your patient received IV medications at the offices and during the time periods specified above, or if your patient is uncertain if he or she received IV medications, your patient should be tested for HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C with the following tests:**

- HIV antibody. If positive, reflex confirmatory testing with Western blot or other approved confirmatory methods should be performed.
- Hepatitis C antibody. If positive, hepatitis C RNA (quantitative or qualitative) should be performed. (Reflex testing often is available for hepatitis C RNA.)
- Hepatitis B surface antigen and hepatitis B core antibody should be done. Hepatitis B surface antibody also should be considered and is useful to determine immunity to hepatitis B.

As their health care provider, please guide them through this process and assist in interpreting results as they become available. Patients are responsible for the costs associated with their medical visit and testing, and should work with their current health insurer. Please remember that HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C infections are reportable to CDPHE by all physicians and health care providers within 7 days of diagnosis. Providers outside of the state of Colorado caring for patients exposed in this incident should also report any positive HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C results to CDPHE. **To report a positive test, please call 303-692-2700 and specify this patient was tested as a result of unsafe injection practices at Stein Oral and Facial Surgery.**

If you have any questions about this investigation please call the Colorado Help Line at 1-877-462-2911, or visit the website at http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/.

Sincerely,

Christopher E. Urbina, MD, MPH
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer