

HIV Testing

According to the Center's for Disease Control (CDC):

HIV screening is recommended for patients in all health-care settings after the patient is notified that testing will be performed unless the patient declines (opt-out screening).

Persons at **high risk** for HIV infection should be screened for HIV at least annually.

Separate written consent for HIV testing should not be required; general consent for medical care should be considered sufficient to encompass consent for HIV testing.

Prevention counseling should not be required with HIV diagnostic testing or as part of HIV screening programs in health-care settings.

**HIV Screening:
Blood will be drawn**

**If results are positive you
will be contacted by a
medical provider in private**

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HIV Capacity Building Initiative

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HIV/AIDS

Be Tested Today



What you need to know to protect
yourself...

What is HIV?

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. Unlike some other viruses, the human body cannot get rid of HIV. That means that once you have HIV, you have it for life. HIV affects specific cells of the immune system, called CD4 cells, or T cells. Over time, HIV can destroy so many of these cells that the body can't fight off infections and disease. When this happens, HIV infection leads to AIDS.

What is AIDS?

AIDS stands for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. This is the stage of infection that occurs when your immune system is badly damaged and you become vulnerable to infections and infection-related cancers called opportunistic illnesses. When the number of your CD4 cells falls below 200 cells per cubic millimeter of blood, you are considered to have progressed to AIDS. (Normal CD4 counts are between 500 and 1,600 cells/mm³.) You can also be diagnosed with AIDS if you develop one or more opportunistic illnesses, regardless of your CD4 count.

How do you get HIV?

You get HIV from an infected person. The virus is in their blood and also in their sexual secretions (sperm and vaginal fluids). The virus is also present in the breast milk of infected mothers.

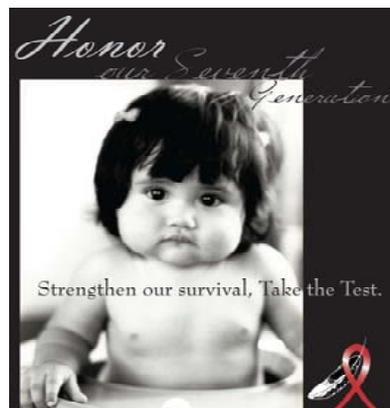
People become HIV positive:

- ⇒ through unprotected sex (oral, anal or vaginal sex without a condom)
 - ⇒ by sharing needles or drug 'works'
 - ⇒ pregnant female may transmit to unborn baby or to an infant through breast feeding
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EDUCATE YOURSELF

PROTECT YOURSELF

TAKE THE TEST!



People May Not Know They Have It!

HIV is a disease with many stages. People with HIV may have no symptoms, a few symptoms or many serious symptoms.

People can have HIV for many years without feeling or looking sick. They may not even know they have HIV. But they can still pass the virus on to others.

For more information
on HIV/AIDS or other
STI's visit:

www.cdc.gov/std

