

Discharge Instructions – Negative Test

What does a negative test mean?

A negative result means there are no signs that your body is fighting HIV infection. Usually this means that you are not infected with the HIV virus. However, it is still possible you have HIV infection if you were exposed recently. It may take a few weeks before HIV infection can be detected in the blood. *You should get another HIV test in 3-6 months.*

How do I get retested?

We can retest you here by appointment at the Emergency Department. To do this, call the Early Intervention Program (EIP) at (513) 558-8081.

OR, you can find a nearby testing site by going to <http://www.hivtest.org/>.

How can I protect myself from HIV?

HIV can be passed from person to person if someone with HIV infection has sex with or shares drug injection needles with another person. It also can be passed from a mother to her baby when she is pregnant, when she delivers the baby, or if she breastfeeds her baby. You can protect yourself by doing the following things:

- Using a condom every time you have anal, vaginal, or oral sex
- Not sharing needles or “works”
- Not sharing personal items, such as razors, sex toys, and toothbrushes
- Limiting your number of sex partners
- Asking your partners about their HIV status

Here are some important things to know:

- No protection method is 100 percent effective, but condoms can reduce your risk.
- The more sex partners you have, the greater your chances are of getting HIV or other diseases passed through sex.
- **Knowing whether you are HIV-positive gives you the ability to protect your own health and the health of your partners and children**