

Discharge Instructions – Preliminary Positive Test

What does a positive test mean?

HIV is a disease that attacks the immune system. If confirmed, an HIV positive result means that you do have HIV, but it does NOT mean that you have AIDS. We will do more tests, and help you get the treatment you need to prevent you from getting AIDS. Untreated HIV infections can lead to AIDS. AIDS is the stage of HIV infection where the body's immune system is no longer able to fight off infection. The HIV test only tells us that you are infected.

What happens next?

With proper care, a person can live with HIV for many years without becoming sick. **It is very important that you set up an appointment with an HIV specialist at the Infectious Diseases Center (IDC).** They will work with you to develop a plan to remain healthy, even while living with HIV.

You can do this by calling the IDC Intake Specialist directly, at **(513) 584-2999**

You may also go to the ED Social Work Office or call EIP for questions/support at **(513) 558-8081**

How can I reduce the spread of the disease?

You can help reduce the spread of infection 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
- Not breastfeeding your baby
- Disclosing your HIV status to your partners

Remember that any time you have sex, you run the risk of catching many different STD's, not just HIV. Please protect yourself and your sex partners with latex condoms, whether you are having oral, genital, or anal sex. Female condoms also provide good protection.

How do I tell my current partner(s)?

There are special resources to locate and notify these people. Some choose to let their partners know themselves. Most decide to work through the Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) at the health department. DIS' are specially trained in notifying persons who have been exposed to sexually transmitted diseases. Your name will not be revealed in this process.

It is very important that partners get tested to prevent the future spread of the disease. This also ensures that if they are positive, they can receive proper care and treatment.

Disclosure Law

Ohio law requires us to tell you that having sex with someone who does not know your HIV positive status is considered felonious assault.