

University of Cincinnati Department of Emergency Medicine

Patient Information – Pre HIV Test

HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus - is a virus that makes your immune system weak. A weak immune system causes more infections. **HIV is treatable.** If not treated, HIV leads to AIDS, but with treatment, a person can live with HIV for many years without becoming sick. It is extremely important to be diagnosed very soon after infection to have the best health. **An HIV test looks for signs of HIV in your body.**

KNOW YOUR STATUS: Getting tested gives you important information and can help keep you—and others—safe. For example:

- Knowing your own HIV status can give you peace of mind—and testing is the only way you can know for sure.
- When you and your partner know each other's HIV status, you can make better decisions about sex and how to stay safe.
- If you are pregnant, or planning to get pregnant, knowing your status can help protect your baby from being infected.
- If you find out you are HIV-positive, you can get into early treatment. This gives you the best chance to stay healthy.
- If you know you are HIV-positive, you can protect others from becoming infected.

Your doctor is planning an HIV test for you today. The testing is a safe blood draw. It should take about an hour to get test results.

- If your test is negative, you are very unlikely to have HIV, but repeat testing in 3-6 months is recommended.
- If your test is positive, it is very likely that you have HIV, but another test is needed to know for sure. This test takes 3-5 days to get results.

Please make sure the ED staff has complete and accurate contact info. If you do not receive the results of this test while in the ED, we may try to call you, or you can contact us through the Early Intervention Program (EIP) at (513) 558-8081.

You have the right to refuse the HIV test or get an anonymous test at one of the locations listed below:

1) Planned Parenthood HIV Prevention Project:

4138 Hamilton Avenue,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Call (513) 679-4453 to make an appointment

2) IV CHARIS, Located at:

821 Bank Street
Cincinnati OH, 45214
Call (513) 542-9703 to make an appointment

3) Cincinnati Health Department, Center for Reproductive Health & Wellness, Located at:

3101 Burnet Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45229
Call (513) 357-7350 to make an appointment

If you have questions about HIV testing please contact The Early Intervention Program at (513) 558-8081.