

Your Test for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)

Test name: HIV Antigen/Antibody Screen

Timing: Results will be ready in 7 days.

Next step: We will call you to talk about next steps and provide a referral regardless of results. Please give us a good phone number for you. Also, give us a phone number to someone that you trust.

What does a negative test mean?

- The HIV test you had looks for signs that your body is fighting HIV.
- It may not be positive until 3-12 weeks *after* you were exposed.
- If you were exposed in the past 3-12 weeks, today's test may be negative.

If you re-test 12 weeks after you are exposed and it is still negative, you do not have HIV.

If you get exposed to HIV after today's test, you may become infected even if today's test is negative.

What if the test is positive?

If your test is positive, we will:

- Order more tests
- Set up another visit to go over the results
- Help you plan for your health care needs

You might have many feelings about this. With early treatment, people with HIV can live about as long as people who don't have HIV. Your team at Children's Mercy will give you the medical care and support you need.

Set up a visit with your primary care provider (PCP)

- After you get your HIV test results, set up a visit with your PCP, regardless of results. If you don't have one, call the Children's Mercy Adolescent Clinic at (816) 960-4152.
- At the visit, talk about:
 - Tests -- Schedule tests for HIV and for other sexually transmitted infections
 - Medicine -- To help prevent or manage HIV
 - Birth control
 - Healthy sexual choices and relationships

It's good to **get tested at least once a year** if you:

- Have sex without a condom
- Are a guy who has sex with a guy
- Have sex with more than 1 person after your last HIV test
- Have sex with a person that you do not know their sexual history
- Have sex for money or drugs
- Get any sexually transmitted infection
- Use needles to inject drugs

Learn more about HIV

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics
- Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades: www.cdc.gov/hiv/spanish/basics/whatishiv.html
- Stop the Virus: <https://www.helpstopthevirus.com/hiv-testing>