HIV TESTING

The screening laboratory test for HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) which causes the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is called ELISA (enzyme-lined immunosorbent assay) test. If this test is positive, a more specific test called the Western Blot is done to rule out a false positive ELISA. This test is specific for the presence of antibodies to HIV in the bloodstream. A positive Western Blot test thus indicates that the individual has been infected with the AIDS virus and has produced antibodies to that virus. There is no reliable test now available to test for the virus itself, only the body's immune system's reaction to the virus. A positive result on the Western Blot test indicates that a person is infected and infectious with the HIV virus. There is no way to determine when a person will become ill from HIV infection or develop full-blown AIDS.

An immune response does not occur immediately when one is infected with the virus. Therefore, if the HIV test is negative initially after possible exposure activity, a repeat test is needed in three months and again at one year to be certain no antibodies to HIV have developed.

FREE AND ANONYMOUS HIV TESTING IN THE PHILADELPHIA AREA

EINSTEIN Community Practice Center
Einstein Medical Building
5501 Old York Road
Paley Building 1st Floor
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-2pm
Phone: 215-456-3465 (*only HIV testing; no STD testing)

BEBASHI NORTH
1217 Spring Garden Street 1st floor
Phone: 215-769-3561
Hours: Mon-Tues –Wed-Fri 9am-3:30pm
Thurs- 9am-6:30pm
Fingerstick HIV, urine gonorrhea & chlamydia

Mazzoni Center for HIV Testing
1201 Chestnut Street 3rd Floor
Phone: 215-563-0652 (
Hours: Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm appt only)
Walk-ins 1201 Locust St Mon-Fri 9am-9pm
Sat 1-5pm

PHILADELPHIA CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Broad and Lombard St (Lombard entrance)
Phone: 215-875-6570/71
Hours: Mon-Fri 7:45am-4:15pm
   Mon &Wed only- 4:30pm-7:15pm

AIDS HOTLINE
1101 Market St
Phone: 215-985-2437
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am – 6 pm

WATS
1211 Chestnut St Suite #701
215-246-5210
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am – 4pm (appt only)
   * rapid HIV testing only

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