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 blood stream. 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 ADOLESCENT MEDICINE**
Einstein Medical Building
5501 Old York Road
Paley Building 1st Floor
Phone: 215-456-6423 (walk-in only)
Hours: Tues 12:30pm – 2 pm
Thurs 9am-1pm for appointments
thru Bebashi
No age criteria Results 1-2 weeks

**BEBASHI NORTH**
1217 Spring Garden Street 1st floor
Phone: 215-769-3561
Hours: Mon-Tues (walk-in) 9am - 4pm
Thurs (by appointment) 9am – 1pm
Oral swabs/Urine GC/CT
Results in one week

**PHILADELPHIA CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**
Broad and Lombard St (Lombard entrance)
Phone: 215-875-6570/71
Hours: Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am - 3:30 pm
Mon & Wed 9am - 5:30 pm
Mobil van available for fairs (ext 6529)
Results in two weeks

**AIDS HOTLINE**
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)

Revised 10/07