

HIV/AIDS TEST

Facts About . . .

The Test

The HIV Antibody Test detects antibodies to HIV (the virus that causes AIDS). The test is highly accurate and can tell you if you have been infected with the virus long before you have symptoms of the disease. Testing is important as early treatment for HIV can help keep a person in better health for a longer time.

Where to get an HIV Test

Call **360-337-5235** to make an appointment for an HIV test at any of the following sites:

Bremerton	109 Austin Drive	(Jackson Park & Navy Hospital exit off Hwy 3)
Poulsbo	19540 Front Street	(Downtown in Parks & Recreation Building)
Port Orchard	1026 Sidney	(Givens Community Center)

Other ways to Test

Home Access HIV Test 1-800-HIV-TEST (448-8378) www.homeaccess.com

What to Expect

A trained health professional will meet with you in a private room to talk with you about the test, your possible risk of infection, means of transmission, and methods of prevention. You can ask questions, talk about your feelings, and explore your options. If you decide to take the test, a small amount of blood will be drawn from your arm and sent to the State Laboratory.

Confidential or Anonymous Tests

You can choose to take the test confidentially or anonymously.

Confidential means your test results are treated much the same as other medical records: the results cannot be shared with anyone without your written permission except by court order. The name of the individual testing positive for HIV infection will be confidentially reported to the local health officer who converts the information. The individual's name is destroyed and only the alpha-numeric code is forwarded to the state. Names are never retained or used.²

Anonymous means that your real name is not used in your records at all. You can use your initials, a code, or a number to identify your test results.

Results from the laboratory are usually available within 2 weeks. You can obtain the result by making an appointment for "post-test counseling". The test results and what they mean for you will be explained. If your test is positive, further counseling, case management services and referrals are available.

Cost

The total fee for the pre and post-test counseling, blood draw, and test are calculated based on your income. The maximum fee is \$60 and the minimum fee is zero.

Questions?

If you still have questions about HIV/AIDS or would like to discuss what an HIV Antibody Test means for you, call **360-337-5235** or **1-800-874-AIDS**.

¹ WAC 246-100-207