

Information About Your HIV Antibody Test

About the HIV Antibody Test

The test will tell if you have antibodies to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in your blood. Having HIV antibodies in the blood means a person has HIV infection.

You may have to wait two weeks or more for your test results. Results will be given in person to you only. Talk to your counselor about when you are to come back and make sure you come back for your results.

HIV vs. AIDS, What's the Difference?

Having an HIV infection means you have the virus in your body and can give it to others through sex (oral, anal or vaginal) or sharing needles. Your immune system may still be strong, and you may look and feel fine. If you are pregnant, your unborn child could also get infected with HIV.

Having AIDS means your weakened immune system can no longer protect the body - even from germs that usually do no harm. This can lead to a number of life-threatening health problems. This test is a test for HIV antibodies. **Only a doctor can diagnose AIDS.**

What if I test negative?

A negative test result means there were no HIV antibodies found in this blood test at the time of testing.

But...

Because it can take weeks for antibodies to appear, people who were recently infected can still test negative. **Remember: it could be too soon for antibodies to show up.** Talk to your counselor honestly about when you have been at risk, and when you might need to come back and be tested again.

And...

Having a negative HIV test won't protect you from getting infected in the future. If you have unprotected sex or share needles, you could still get infected.

