

HIV and Syphilis are reportable conditions in Texas and are primary diseases that require hands-on intervention.

The Texas Health and Safety Code §81.051 requires that people receiving a positive HIV test result be given the opportunity for immediate, face-to-face counseling about several aspects of the test.

Healthcare providers can comply with this law by providing post-test counseling themselves or by contacting their local health department so that a trained Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) can deliver the HIV positive test results.

### What is the Focus of the DIS?



- Locating and notifying patients of their test results;
- Referring patients for examination and treatment;
- Counseling patients on methods to reduce the risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV/STDs in the future;
- Establishing a contract with the patient so that unaware partners receive confidential and prompt diagnosis and treatment; and
- Locating and contacting exposed partners and coordinating their medical follow-up.

### Helping You Achieve Disease Intervention

The disease intervention process begins when a DIS receives a surveillance report on an infected client. DIS are available to help locate patients who have tested positive but did not receive their results from the medical provider. In these cases, the DIS acts as an agent of the medical provider, using their resources and experience to locate these patients. Once located, patients are referred back to the original provider or to a county clinic or other medical facility for medical or other services, as appropriate.