## Molecular HIV Surveillance



Texas Department of State Health Services

# What is Public Health Surveillance?

Surveillance is the routine collection of health information by a health department from hospitals, medical providers, and laboratories.

This data helps to identify potential public health emergencies and monitor health conditions. By knowing this information, DSHS can help create healthier communities.

## **Key Terms**

**Drug Resistance Testing** - A lab test used to determine which HIV treatment will be most effective for a person living with HIV

**HIV Genetic Information** - The genetic material of HIV

## **Contact Us**

#### **DSHS TB/HIV/STD Section**

Post Office Box 149347, MC 1873 Austin, Texas 78714 737-255-4300 dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/

## What is Molecular HIV Surveillance?

Molecular HIV Surveillance (MHS) is the routine collection of HIV genetic information by health departments from laboratories. This information is collected during an HIV drug resistance test ordered by an HIV medical care provider. Testing requires a blood sample. The genetic information that is collected is not the genetic information of the person but the genetic information of HIV.

### **How is Molecular HIV Surveillance Data Used?**



Healthcare providers review lab results



routine HIV drug resistance testing



DSHS receives MHS information from laboratories



Healthcare providers choose the best treatment option



DSHS identifies people in need of HIV prevention and care services



Treatment helps prevent the transmission of HIV



Prevent and eventually end HIV



## Is My Health Information Safe?

By law, certain health information is required to be sent to the health department by hospitals, medical providers, and laboratories. The health department is also required to protect and prevent any personal information from being released. De-identified health information is regularly sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). All health information collected by the health department is confidential.

Learn more: <a href="mailto:cdc.gov/hiv/programresources/guidance/cluster-outbreak/">cdc.gov/hiv/programresources/guidance/cluster-outbreak/</a>