

**By Law,
Your Baby's
HIV Test Results
Are Confidential!**

Your doctor can only share your baby's HIV information with others who provide health care for your baby. If your baby's test is positive, this will be confidentially reported to the State Health Department.

Talk to Your Doctor.


Your doctor and your baby's doctor can answer your questions so you can decide what is best for you and your baby. For more information, call the New York State Information Line at:

- 1-800-541-AIDS (2437) - English
- 1-800-233-SIDA (7432) - Spanish
- HIV/AIDS TDD Information Line at: 1-800-369-2437 Voice callers use the New York Relay: 711 or 1-800-421-1220 and ask for 1-800-541-2437

http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/hiv_basics/stds_hiv.htm

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**Important News
For New Mothers
About Your
Baby's
HIV Test**



Soon after your baby is born, he or she will be tested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Why Is the Test Important?



New York State requires that all newborn babies be tested for HIV and many other disorders through the Newborn Screening Program. There is medicine your doctor can give your baby right after birth to prevent her/him from getting HIV.



How Could My Baby Have HIV?

If you have HIV, the virus can be passed to your baby during pregnancy or through breastfeeding.

When Will I Get My Baby's Test Results?

If you were tested for HIV during your pregnancy and do not have HIV, you will get your baby's HIV test result along with all of the other newborn screening test results during your baby's first doctor visit. Make sure you ask for all your baby's test results.

If you were tested for HIV during labor OR your baby was tested at birth, you will get a preliminary (not final) test result within 12 hours. Another test will be done to be sure of the result.

These test results will help you make choices about breastfeeding, care for your baby, and care for yourself.



What Does It Mean If My Baby's Test Shows HIV?

It means you have HIV and your baby has been exposed to HIV. But, this does not always mean that your baby has HIV. To be sure, your baby's blood has to be tested using a test that looks for the HIV virus. By using this special test, your baby's doctor will usually know if your baby has HIV by the time he or she is four months old. That's why it is so important that you talk to your baby's doctor about when to bring your baby in for checkups and follow-up blood tests.

What If I Have HIV?



If you have HIV, start medical care right away. It is important that you take your HIV medicine called ART (antiretroviral therapy) the right way, every day. This medicine will reduce your chances of passing the virus to others and help you stay healthy so you can care for your baby.

What If My Baby Has HIV?



With the help of your doctor, you can decide on the best treatment for your baby. You and your doctor can talk about who should know your baby has HIV. And you will learn how to care for your baby, and what to do if your baby gets sick.