



*Barnes-Jewish Hospital now offers confidential human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing to patients who come to the emergency department for care. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a national organization that focuses on maintaining the health of everyone in the United States, recommends that all people ages 13 to 64 years old be tested for HIV regularly. People seen in the emergency department will have an opportunity for a private discussion of testing and any other concerns with a care provider.*

**For more information about HIV testing in English and en Español 24 hours a day, 365 days a year**

**Website:** [www.hivtest.org](http://www.hivtest.org)

**Email:** [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov)

**Phone:** 1-800-CDC-INFO  
(1-800-232-4636)

**TTY:** 1-888-232-6348

## HIV Screening

*in the Emergency Department*

**Barnes-Jewish Hospital**  
**One Barnes-Jewish Hospital Plaza**  
**Saint Louis, MO 63110**  
**[BarnesJewish.org](http://BarnesJewish.org)**



## What is HIV?

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. This virus attacks the immune system which makes it hard for your body to fight off infection. The HIV virus is the virus that causes AIDS. Unfortunately, there is no cure for HIV.

## How do you get HIV?

People can get HIV from any of the following:

- Having unprotected sexual intercourse or oral sex
- Sharing needles for drugs or tattoos.
- Blood transfusions (but this is very rare)

HIV is not transmitted by coughing, sneezing, touching, kissing, holding hands, hugging or any common, everyday activities.

## How can you tell someone has HIV?

You can't tell if someone has HIV by looking at them. Most people with HIV look and feel healthy. People with HIV may not know they have it. The only way to be sure a person doesn't have HIV is to be tested.

## Why test for HIV?

- If the HIV infection is diagnosed late, the virus has time to destroy the immune system and make the person very sick.
- The medicines that treat HIV don't work as well when a person is treated late in the infection.
- Testing keeps people from unknowingly giving HIV to others.

- It is important to identify persons with HIV early, so we can offer them the most benefit from treatment.

## How does the test work?

- The HIV test will be done with a small amount of blood drawn from your arm.
- The test takes 20 minutes to run, so you will have the test results before you leave the emergency department.
- Your decision to be tested and the results will be confidential. They will be given to you privately and not shared with anyone else unless you say it is okay.
- If the test is positive:
  - We will confirm the diagnosis with a blood test.
  - We will help you tell whomever you want to about the diagnosis and start to educate you about HIV.
  - We will also get you referred to treatment while you are still in the emergency department.

## If the test is negative, do I need another test?

- If within the last 3 months you have had unprotected sex or shared needles, we recommend retesting in 3 to 6 months. This is suggested to make sure a very early infection is not missed.
- The test for HIV looks at the body's response to the virus. Because the body takes time to make that response, it may not show up in the early infection stage.

## If you decide not to be tested today, you can get free confidential HIV testing at the following locations:

**Washington University ID Clinic** • (314) 747-1206  
4570 Children's Place • St. Louis, MO 63110

**Project ARK** • (314) 535-7275  
4169 Laclede Ave. • St. Louis, MO 63108

**Metro HIV/STD** • (314) 612-5100  
634 N Grand Blvd. • 4th floor • St. Louis, MO 63103

**St. Louis Effort for AIDS** • (314) 645-6451  
1027 S. Vandeventer Ave. • Suite 700  
• St. Louis, MO 63110

**Williams & Associates** • (314) 531-2284  
3618 N. Spring Ave. • St. Louis, MO 63107

**Family Care Health Centers** • (314) 531-5444  
4352 Manchester Ave. • St. Louis, MO 63110

**Family Care Health Centers** • (314) 353-5190  
401 Holly Hills Ave. • St. Louis, MO 63111

**Community Wellness Project** • (314) 421-9600  
906 Olive St. • Suite 1220 • St. Louis, MO 63101

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## Low cost HIV and STD screenings are available at the following nearby locations\*:

**St. Louis ConnectCare** • (314) 879-6468  
5535 Delmar Blvd. • St. Louis, MO 63112

**Planned Parenthood** • (314) 531-7526  
4251 Forest Park Ave. • St. Louis, MO 63108

**People's Health Centers** • (314) 367-7848  
5701 Delmar Blvd. • St. Louis, MO 63112

\* You may need to provide income information to qualify for lower fees.