**HIV Preliminary Positive – Now What?**

NOTE: Do not do HIV testing before a holiday or on a day like Friday if your client will not have any support from you over the following 2-3 days.

**REMINDER: Before you start testing . . .**

* Call the lab to find out how to submit the confirmatory specimen and how long it will take to get results.
* Contact the Department of Public Health/Ryan White/agency that will provide your HIV+ client with medical treatment, partner notification, and social services.

A preliminary positive is serious – but it is not an emergency.

1. Tell your client the result and what it means.
2. Explain that while the rapid test is extremely accurate - for such an important diagnosis, we do a second, confirmatory test to be absolutely sure of the result.
3. Pause to give the client time to react. Listen and/or counsel as appropriate.
4. You may want to ask where they are going after they leave your office. Let them know that there is no rush to tell anyone about the test – might be best to wait for the confirmatory result.
5. Draw a blood sample to send to the lab for a confirmatory test.
6. Schedule the client to come back for their results – may be 2 or 3 days.
7. Tell them you’d like to stay in touch – ask for permission to call them to see how they’re doing while they’re waiting for their results.
8. As soon as you get the results, reach out to your contact at DPH – wherever your client will receive medical treatment, social services, and partner notification. If possible, arrange to introduce your client to them face to face.
9. Give your client their confirmatory results – in person. Never over the phone. Do not say you have bad news. Do not give any sort of preamble. Just ask if they’re ready to hear their results and then tell them.
10. If possible, personally escort your client to DPH or wherever they will be given the treatment they need.
11. Paperwork:
* Bubble Sheet 3 – place your copy in a locked drawer and keep “forever.”
* Case Report form – link to form at [www.hiveis.com](http://www.hiveis.com) on the HIV Testing page.
* Confidential HIV+ Client Served form – on the HIV Testing page at [www.hiveis.com](http://www.hiveis.com).