

## **LHD Responsibilities in Providing Positive HIV and Syphilis Results**

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Provide client-centered HIV and STD counseling, education and referrals to include verbal and written information.

- A. Make immediate attempts to locate the client when positive, reactive or presumptive HIV or syphilis test results are known. If properly trained, the health care professional who ordered the test should provide client-centered counseling. If the provider lacks training to give positive HIV results, he/she should be present with the trained counselor and client when the client receives their results. Each local health department is required to have two (2) HIV counselors trained to give HIV positive results. Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) should not be asked to provide HIV or syphilis positive test results unless one or both of the following: 1) the DIS initiated testing as part of partner notification 2) the local health department has attempted to contact the client to return to clinic without success.
- B. Post-test counseling for persons infected with HIV is required, must be individualized, and shall include referrals for medical and psychosocial services and the issuance of control measures. 10A NCAC 41A .0202 (10).
- C. Clients with clinical evidence of early syphilis infection or clients that are known sexual contacts to a confirmed early syphilis case should be treated during the initial clinic visit. Treatment should not be delayed pending lab results.
- D. Promptly contact local or regional DIS for follow-up for all positive, reactive or presumptive positive HIV or syphilis test results. When possible, arrange for DIS to be onsite to meet the client the same day the client receives positive results.
- E. If a DIS is unavailable to meet with the client on the day they receive a positive result, inform the client about the DIS role regarding anonymous partner notification. Advise the client that a DIS will be contacting them in the near future.
- F. Consult immediately with DIS and the NC STAT program to arrange for follow-up of all possible or positive ACUTE HIV results.

Refer to the HIV and Syphilis Laboratory and Treatment Standing Orders for additional guidance.