

## What does a positive HIV test result mean? - HIV testing, part 7



If your first HIV test result is positive, you will need a follow-up test to confirm the results. HIV tests are usually very accurate, but follow-up testing lets you be sure the result is right.

If you had a rapid screening test, the testing site will arrange a follow-up test to make sure the screening test result was correct.

If your blood was tested in a lab, the lab will conduct a follow-up test on the same blood sample.

If the follow-up test is also positive, you will be diagnosed as “HIV-positive.” That is, you have been infected with HIV.



At this point, the person giving you your test results will discuss what having HIV means for you and your health.

You will be informed about how the virus can affect you and how to protect others from becoming infected.



You will also be informed about resources and treatments available to you. Finally, you will be referred to a medical professional to develop a treatment for you.

Be sure to get answers to any questions you have about HIV/AIDS. Your public health department, health care provider, and public library can help.