
"To improve the health of our communities by identifying sustainable solutions to community health issues, developing partnerships for implementation of strategies, and demonstrating our success through measurement of outcomes."

Increase in Newly Identified HIV Cases Leads to Call for Increased Testing

October 17, 2008

In response to an increase in newly identified HIV infections in Idaho, a statewide press release has been issued by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to increase public awareness of the risks for infection and to urge those at risk to consider seeking testing.

IDHW and the district health departments are recommending physicians screen patients for HIV in accordance with the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations. For all healthcare settings, routine screening for HIV is recommended in all patients 13–64 years of age. Assessment for risk of HIV infection should be incorporated into routine primary care for all sexually active persons.

Healthcare providers should test all persons likely to be at high risk for HIV at least annually.

Individuals considered high risk for HIV infection include but are not limited to:

- anyone who engages in unprotected sex
- men who have sex with men (MSM) **and** women who have sex with MSM
- sex partners of HIV-infected persons
- using the internet to meet anonymous (unnamed) persons for sex
- heterosexual persons who have had unprotected sex since their most recent HIV test
- injection-drug users and their sex/needle-sharing partners
- persons who exchange sex for money or drugs

Patients in which testing may also be warranted include:

- Patients engaging in a new sexual relationship.
- Patients with newly diagnosed active tuberculosis
- Patients with medical conditions consistent with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and
- Patients presenting with acute viral illnesses of unexplained etiology who have risk factors for HIV.

The complete revised recommendations for HIV testing of adults, adolescents, and pregnant women in healthcare settings can be found at the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/guidelines/index.htm>.

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