

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and syphilis are reportable conditions in Texas that require hands-on intervention.

The Texas Health and Safety Code, §81.051, requires that people receiving a positive HIV test result have the opportunity for immediate, face-to-face counseling about several aspects of the test.

Healthcare providers can comply with this law by providing post-test counseling themselves or by contacting their local health department so that a trained Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) can deliver the HIV-positive test results.

What is the Focus of the DIS?



- Locating and notifying the client of their test results;
- Referring the client for evaluation to treatment;
- Counseling the clients on methods to reduce the risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV/STDs in the future;
- Establishing a contract with the client so that unaware partners receive confidential and prompt diagnosis and treatment; and
- Locating and contacting exposed partners and coordinating their medical follow-up.

Helping You Achieve Disease Intervention

The disease intervention process begins when a DIS receives a surveillance report on a client with a positive HIV or syphilis test result. DIS is available to help locate clients who have tested positive for HIV or syphilis but did not receive their results from the medical provider. In these cases, the DIS acts as an agent of the medical provider and local health authority, using their resources and experience to locate these clients. Once DIS locates and informs the client of their positive results, DIS will refer the client back to their original provider, county clinic, or other medical facility for medical or other services, as appropriate, to start treatment, continue treatment, or do both.

