

**Texas Department of State Health Services
HIV/STD Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch
Technical Assistance Bulletin: Reporting Rapid HIV Test Results
March 2010**

The purpose of this Technical Assistance Bulletin is to provide health care providers in Texas guidance for the reporting of preliminary positive rapid HIV test results.

INTRODUCTION

Rapid HIV tests detect antibodies to the HIV within 20 minutes; a positive rapid HIV test result must be followed with a confirmatory test before a final diagnosis of HIV infection can be made. The Department of State Health Services has received several inquiries about whether preliminary positive rapid HIV test results are reportable. This bulletin describes the state law for reporting sexually transmitted diseases and how to report preliminary positive rapid HIV test results.

REPORTING AUTHORITY

Texas Administrative Code Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter F, Rule 97.133 requires reporting entities to submit to the health authority information for any specimen derived from a human body that yields microscopic, cultural, serological or any other evidence of AIDS, chancroid, Chlamydia, gonorrhea, HIV infection, or syphilis. Because positive rapid HIV tests yield evidence of HIV infection, these test results are reportable as specified in Rule 97.133.

REPORTING POSITIVE RAPID HIV TEST RESULTS

STD clinics, HIV testing sites, outpatient clinics, hospitals, laboratories and other healthcare providers that obtain preliminary positive results from a rapid HIV test should report these results in the same manner as a confirmatory positive HIV test result. Healthcare providers should report results on the STD-27 (Department of State Health Services Confidential Report of Sexually Transmitted Diseases Form) and laboratories should report results on the STD-28 (Laboratory Reporting Form). Forms should be sent to the local or regional health authority within seven days of receiving the positive rapid test result; do not wait for a positive confirmatory test result before submitting the report form.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

HIV/STD reporting information can be found on the Laws, Rules and Authorization webpage under the Texas Rules and Regulations section on the HIV/STD program website at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/hivstd/policy/laws.shtm>. Questions about HIV rapid test reporting may be sent to Dr. Sharon Melville at Sharon.Melville@dshs.state.tx.us.