

## HIV/AIDS AND TUBERCULOSIS TEST INFORMATION NOTICE

### **HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)/ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (AIDS)**

**WHAT IS HIV/AIDS:** HIV is the virus which causes AIDS. You can be infected with HIV and have no symptoms at all. About half of the people with HIV develop the disease AIDS within ten years, but the time between infection and the onset of the disease can vary greatly. AIDS is a the disease that weakens your body's immune system, making it difficult to fight off other diseases. There is no cure for HIV or AIDS, making your prevention efforts extremely important. You can become infected with HIV in two main ways:

- Having unprotected sex (vaginal, oral, and anal) with an infected person.
- Sharing drug needles or syringes with an infected person.

HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from an infected mother to her unborn child. Additionally, anyone receiving a blood transfusion PRIOR TO 1985 should be tested. Since 1985, the blood supply has been carefully tested.

**WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?** Many infected people have no symptoms and have not been tested. If you have unprotected sex with one of them, you put yourself in danger. It is no secret that while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs our judgment is impaired. We may make decisions involving risky behaviors, such as having unprotected sex with someone we don't know too well.

**WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MYSELF?** As a participant in this program, you can be referred for an HIV test. If you ARE NOT infected, you can protect yourself by:

- Using condoms properly
- Not having unprotected sex
- Not sharing needles
- Not putting yourself in risky situations by using alcohol or other drugs.

If you ARE infected, there are new medical treatments being developed which help people stay healthy longer. Please talk to your health care provider if you would like to know about the options that are available.

## **TUBERCULOSIS**

**WHAT IS TUBERCULOSIS?** Tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious disease that is spread through the air by breathing the germs. The germs are coughed or sneezed into the air by someone who is sick with TB. TB has two stages. The first stage is called INFECTION, which means the germs have entered the body. Most people who are infected have no symptoms, never develop the disease, and are not contagious. However, some people do go on to the second stage which is called DISEASE. TB most often damages the lungs, but other parts of the body can be affected. Permanent body damage and death can result from the disease and persons with the disease ARE contagious.

**WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?** TB is making a comeback in the United States. Anyone can get TB, but certain people are at greater risk. These people include:

- People in poverty or homeless people
- People born in countries with high rates of TB
- Prisoners
- Alcohol Users and IV Drug Users
- People with HIV/AIDS

**IS THERE A CURE?** Yes! There are medications which can prevent an infection from turning into the disease and other medications which can cure the disease. However, the most important first step is finding out if you have been exposed to TB by taking a simple TB Skin Test.

**WHERE CAN I GET THIS TEST OR MORE INFORMATION:** Alcohol and Other Drug Services will provide you with a referral to one of our local clinics or to our local Public Health Department for TB/HIV tests. If you are interested in finding out more about TB/HIV or obtaining a test, please mark the box below.

I have discussed the information about TB and HIV/AIDS with my counselor and would like:  
 more information                       a HIV Blood test                       a TB Skin test

I have discussed the information about TB and HIV/AIDS with my counselor and am interested in receiving more information or a test at this time. I have received information about where testing can be obtained.

Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Client Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have discussed the information about TB and HIV/AIDS with my counselor and am NOT interested in receiving more information or a test at this time. I understand that if I remain an active client, I may change my mind and request an HIV test at a later date.

Client Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_