

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Child and Family Services Agency
HEALTHCARE QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE
HIV and AIDS



For purposes of this quick reference guide, the term “child” includes both infants and youth, as applicable. For more information, **contact the CFSA Clinical and Health Services Administration (CHSA) On-Call Information Line at 202-498-8456, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.**

HIV and AIDS Policy

1. All children coming into foster care are screened in the CHSA Healthy Horizons Assessment Center (HHAC) for HIV/AIDS as a part of the routine examination during the pre-placement screening.
2. The results of the screening (whether negative or positive) are forwarded to the CFSA medical director.
3. If the results are positive, the medical director decides on next steps.
4. Disclosure of HIV status to anyone other than a foster parent, congregate care director, health care practitioner, or the assigned social worker, supervisor, and supervisory manager should be made only with a written, HIPAA-compliant authorization executed by the parent or guardian, the age-appropriate child or youth, or by a Family Court order.
5. HIV/AIDS testing is recommended in the following categories (with special attention given to adolescents):
 - a. Children showing symptoms of HIV-infection
 - b. Children who have a sibling or parent who is infected
 - c. Children with a history of sexual abuse or diagnosis of a sexually-transmitted disease
 - d. Youth with a history of illicit substance use or abuse
 - e. Youth who are known to be sexually active
6. All congregate care facilities require that the facility's director sign a *Confidentiality Agreement* regarding the disclosure of a child's HIV-related information. The director consults with the child's social worker and CHSA to determine which facility staff member should also have this knowledge. Any facility staff member who is required to have this knowledge shall sign the *Confidentiality Agreement*.
7. All *Confidentiality Agreements* shall be submitted to the social worker who forwards the agreement to CHSA.
8. Age-appropriate children may request to be screened and tested on their own.
9. Post-screen counseling is available at the time and location of the screening.
10. The social worker consults with CHSA for advice on the provision of counseling and testing for the child.

11. In order to assure proper care and treatment of an HIV-positive child or youth, CFSA should provide the child's HIV status and medication regimen to caregivers (i.e., a foster or kinship parent, or congregate care facility staff) prior to placement. This information should also be used to help protect the child against other contagious diseases (such as measles and chicken pox). **The child's name should not be disclosed until the placement is confirmed.**
12. The healthcare practitioner who administered the HIV test shall forward all test results, whether positive or negative, to CFSA's medical director within 24 hours of receipt of the results. If the results are positive, the medical director shall immediately (within 24 hours) contact the child's assigned social worker. Together the social worker and medical director shall decide the course of action regarding notification and scheduling of the meeting with the child's healthcare practitioner and the foster parent or caregiver, birth parents (if appropriate), and the age-appropriate child.
13. Both an age-appropriate child and parent or legal guardian may decline or refuse the child's HIV/AIDS testing. In each case, the social worker shall consult with CHSA. If necessary, CHSA shall notify either the assigned CFSA assistant attorney general or the child's guardian *ad litem* to request a Family Court order granting CFSA medical guardianship for the specific purpose of consenting to HIV/AIDS testing.
14. CFSA requires Agency staff, contracted agency staff, foster parents, and congregate care providers engaged in providing direct services to children and families to be trained in and to use universal infection control precautions on a daily basis.
15. Birth parents are entitled to receive information about the health status of their child except under either of the following circumstances:
 - a. Parental rights have been terminated or relinquished or a court of general jurisdiction has ordered otherwise.
 - b. The age-appropriate child has given sole consent to the testing and agrees to the recommended treatment. If the child refuses treatment, a parent must be informed. (22 DCMR §§ 602.6 and 602.7)

To read this online policy in its entirety, click on [HIV and AIDS](#) or visit CFSA's online policy manual at <http://cfsa.dc.gov/>.