
This news release was sent out statewide to the media today. All of our news releases are available on the Indiana State Department of Health website at: www.statehealth.in.gov.



Michael R. Pence
Governor

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**THREE ADDITIONAL PEOPLE TEST POSITIVE
FOLLOWING HIV RETESTING BLITZ IN SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA**

INDIANAPOLIS—State health officials announced today that three additional people have tested positive for HIV in the southeastern Indiana HIV outbreak, bringing the total to 184.

The additional cases were identified through a two-week retesting blitz conducted in November. Disease Intervention Specialists from the Indiana State Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention attempted to contact 476 high-risk individuals who had not had a repeat HIV test within the last 30 days. A total of 181 people were tested.

Those who tested negative but remain at high risk of infection were provided education about preventive treatment.

“While we hope to see no additional cases of HIV tied to this outbreak, we understand that we may continue to diagnose individuals with HIV infection who weren’t previously tested, or those who haven’t started preventive treatment and continue to engage in high-risk behaviors,” said State Health Commissioner Jerome Adams, M.D., M.P.H. “We feel fortunate that so many people tested negative and that the individuals who did test positive can now be connected with treatment that can help keep them healthy and prevent the spread of HIV.”

HIV can take up to three months to diagnose, depending on the test that is used and how long it takes the virus to multiply in a person's body. Individuals who have engaged in high-risk behavior such as needle sharing and unprotected sex are advised to get tested and then retested every two to three months as long as they are engaging in those behaviors.

Retesting is still available. For HIV testing locations and information about HIV Care Coordination, individuals are encouraged to call the HIV Services Hotline at (866) 588-4948.

To prevent HIV infection, avoid:

- injection drug use;
- sharing or re-using needles or works;
- engaging in unprotected sex or sex with commercial sex workers.

Individuals seeking help with substance abuse should call the national 24-hour addiction hotline at 1-800-662-HELP (4357). This hotline provides confidential, free, 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year information service, in English and Spanish, for individuals and family members facing mental health and/or substance use disorders. This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups and community-based organizations. Callers can also order free publications and other information.

To learn more about the link between HIV infection and drug abuse, visit the National Institute on Drug Abuse at <http://hiv.drugabuse.gov/index.html>.

Hoosiers who do not have health care coverage or access to a doctor are encouraged to check availability for the new Healthy Indiana Plan—HIP 2.0—by visiting www.HIP.IN.gov or calling 1-877-GET-HIP-9.

Visit the Indiana State Department of Health at www.StateHealth.in.gov for important health and safety information, or follow us on Twitter at [@StateHealthIN](https://twitter.com/StateHealthIN) and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/isdh1.

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