



Getting a new life off to a great start

You just found out you're having a baby. It's an exciting time, full of hope, joy and maybe some concern. You want to take good care of yourself – and do everything you can to protect the new life growing inside of you. These days, that includes getting tested for HIV as early as possible in your pregnancy.

What is HIV?

HIV is a virus that weakens the immune system, which is the body's defense against disease.

Why is HIV testing so important for pregnant women?

HIV can be passed from a mother with the virus to her baby during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding.

Women with HIV who start treatment early and maintain it throughout their pregnancy very rarely pass HIV to their babies.

Today, women with HIV who get treatment are living longer and staying healthier.

How is the HIV test done?

Nearly all pregnant women today get an HIV test as part of their prenatal care. Usually blood is drawn to test for HIV. Blood can be drawn for other prenatal tests at the same time. It takes a few days to get the results unless a rapid test is given.

Out of 50 pregnant women with HIV, the risk of passing HIV to their babies is about:

- When women begin treatment during pregnancy



(1 baby out of 50)

- When women begin treatment during labor, or their babies get treatment soon after birth, or they both get treatment at these times



(5 babies out of 50)

- When women do not get treatment



(13 babies out of 50)