



THE BLOOD ALLIANCE

Live and Help Live

An Important Statement on the Safety of Blood:

As a blood donor, you are a special person. Because we consider you our partner in providing a safe and adequate blood supply to our community, we want you to know some important facts before you donate. Although the risk of transmitting the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) through a blood transfusion is very low, blood centers must take every precaution to help insure the safety of blood. If you have any questions after reading this information, please ask one of our trained staff.

What is AIDS?

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). This virus causes a severe breakdown in the body's ability to defend itself against disease.

How is AIDS contracted?

HIV is transmitted (spread) by the exchange of semen or blood during sexual relations or by sharing needles or equipment used for injecting drugs. Any body fluid that contains visible blood may transmit the virus. This means that you can become infected by engaging in behavior such as having sex - anal, oral, or vaginal - with an infected person, or by injecting drugs and sharing needles and syringes. A woman infected with HIV can transmit it to her unborn or newborn child.

What are the high risk groups?

- ◆ Persons with clinical or laboratory evidence of HIV (AIDS) infection.
- ◆ Men who have had sex with another man one or more times since 1977.
- ◆ Past or present practice of injecting drugs.
- ◆ Persons with hemophilia who have received clotting factor concentrate.
- ◆ Men or women who have engaged in sex for money or drugs since 1977.
- ◆ Persons who have had sex with any of the above people in the last 12 months.
- ◆ Persons who have been in jail or prison for 72 consecutive hours in the last 12 months.

- ◆ Persons who were born in or have lived in the following countries since 1977: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Niger, or Nigeria.
- ◆ Persons who have traveled to any of the above countries since 1977 and received a blood transfusion or medical treatment with a product made from blood while in that country.
- ◆ Persons who have had sexual contact with an individual born in or who has lived in the above countries since 1977.

YOU MUST NOT DONATE IF YOU ARE IN ANY OF THESE HIGH RISK GROUPS!

What are the signs and symptoms of AIDS?

- ◆ Unexplained weight loss
- ◆ Night sweats
- ◆ Blue or purple spots typical of Kaposi's sarcoma on or under the skin, or on mucous membranes
- ◆ Swollen lymph nodes lasting more than one month
- ◆ Persistent white spots or unusual blemishes in the mouth
- ◆ Temperature greater than 100.5 deg. F for more than 10 days
- ◆ Persistent cough and shortness of breath
- ◆ Persistent diarrhea

IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF AIDS, YOU MUST NOT DONATE BLOOD!

FACT: You cannot get AIDS by donating blood. All blood collection supplies are sterile, nonreusable and only used by you.

Prescreening before you donate:

As a measure to protect recipients of blood and blood products, all blood centers have been asked to prescreen donors. We ask you not to donate if you feel your blood can transmit any infectious disease. You must not donate if you feel you have been exposed to the AIDS virus or are in any of the high risk groups previously listed. Do not donate blood just to have your blood tested. There are alternative testing sites that offer AIDS testing. For more information on these testing sites, call Duval County AIDS Program 904-665-2545.

Your blood will be tested:

All donated blood is tested for evidence of HIV, hepatitis, syphilis, and HTLV. These tests are performed to protect the patients who receive blood. We perform additional tests on the blood in an effort to improve the safety and efficacy of blood transfusions. In order to interpret and better understand these tests, it may be necessary to contact you later to request an additional blood sample.

NOTE: In the event we are unable to collect the testing sample tubes or if these tubes are accidentally damaged, infectious disease testing will not be performed and your unit of blood will not be used.

Informed consent:

Before you give blood, you will be asked to sign a statement that you have read this information, you understand it, and you will not give blood for transfusion to another person if you are at risk of

catching or spreading the AIDS virus. Remember the HIV testing done by FGBA is not a test for AIDS, but a screening test for the evidence of past exposure to the HIV viruses and may be negative although the infection may still be transmitted. Therefore, do not donate blood just to be tested.

WARNING: Florida statute states that:

"Any person who has Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection, who knows he is infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus, and who has been informed that he may communicate this disease by donating blood, plasma, organs, skin, or other human tissue; who donates blood, plasma, organs, skin or human tissue, is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.775.082, s.775.083, or s.775.084."

What happens if my test results are positive?

In the event of a positive test result, you will be notified by mail and advised to contact The Blood Alliance. You may call for an appointment to meet with a qualified counselor who will discuss the test results in question with you. You will receive caring guidance to assist you in dealing with the findings. Information concerning your rights and responsibilities will be reviewed. Remember, all information regarding your test results will be handled in a confidential manner.

For further information about AIDS, contact:

Florida AIDS HOTLINE	1-800-352-2437
National AIDS HOTLINE	1-800-342-2437
TTY I TDD Deaf Access	1-800-503-7118

The Blood Alliance - a non-profit community service

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