

## HIV TESTING INFORMATION SHEET

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the virus that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). This virus can only be transmitted to others through sexual contact, the introduction of infected blood into the bloodstream (e.g., by the sharing of syringes or needles), or from an infected mother to her infant, either during the birth process or by breast-feeding. A person who is infected with HIV is likely to come down with AIDS. However, AIDS usually does not develop until many years after a person has been infected, and persons with HIV infection may look and feel completely healthy.

Tests are available to determine the presence of antibodies to HIV. Antibodies are substances made by the body to fight infection. The presence of antibodies (a positive antibody test) indicates that a person is infected with HIV and is capable of infecting others with the virus. However, it takes time for the body to make antibodies after the virus gets into the body. For this reason, the antibody test for a person who has recently been infected with HIV may show that a person is “negative” (does not have antibodies) or “indeterminate” (neither positive nor negative) even though that person actually carries the virus in his/her body. A test taken at a later time, when the body has had more time to make antibodies, would show that the person is positive.

If your HIV antibody test results are known, it helps your doctor decide how best to treat you for certain illnesses. If you are infected with the virus, you can receive treatment to help prevent or delay the illnesses that can occur with AIDS. It may also help you to make personal decisions if you know that you have HIV infection and could infect someone else. If your blood test is positive, Job Corps will conduct medical and psychosocial evaluations in order to provide appropriate medical care and counseling, as well as to determine whether it is appropriate for you to remain in Job Corps.

If your blood test is positive and the test results become known by others, they might think you have AIDS or that you might infect them. This may not be true, but you might be discriminated against by friends, family, employers, landlords, insurance companies, or others. Therefore, you should be extremely careful in disclosing your test results.

HIV test results and other related medical records may only be released to Job Corps staff with a need for that information for purposes of counseling, administration and delivery of health services, and to the local and/or state health department, when required by law.

Acknowledgement of receipt of information:

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_