



Rapid HIV Testing is a new service being offered within the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department's Family Planning and STD programs. Rapid testing involves a finger stick, rather than a venous blood draw, and is more sensitive and specific. It allows for rapid detection of the HIV virus; the test results are available within 20 minutes. HIV could be detected within 7-10 days after exposure. HIV prevention counseling and education are provided along with the testing. If the result is positive, a confirmatory venous blood draw will be necessary and that is done at the same appointment. If confirmed positive, clients are immediately referred to trained consultants who assist with follow-up care. A recent site review by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service (MDHHS) HIV division was conducted to evaluate this new program. The final official report states "DIDHD has gone above and beyond to ensure they are implementing a quality program." The CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommends HIV screening for all persons ages 13-64, in all health care settings, at least once, and more often if indicated according to risk factors. For additional information regarding testing or appointments, please call the Dickinson-Iron District Health Dept. at 906-779-7237.