

	STUDENT EMPLOYEE HEALTH SERVICES POLICY MEMORANDUM	POLICY	
		XXXXXX	
	<b>SUBJECT: Guidelines for the HIV Rapid Screening test</b>	DATE	
		PAGE(S)	
		SUPERSEDES	
		XXXXXX	

**1.0 PURPOSE**

To outline recommendations and procedures for reducing the risk of HIV infections, increasing participants' awareness of their HIV status and reducing HIV-related health disparities. MHC strives to promote the health of persons with HIV, prevent HIV transmission and contribute to community well –being.

**2.0 POLICY STATEMENT**

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which can lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), can affect the immune and central nervous systems and can result in neurological problems, opportunistic infections, and/or cancers. Early detection of HIV-infection and treatment has shown to improve health outcomes, suppress HIV viral load, and reduce the risk of HIV transmission. MSM is committed to best practices, preventive medicine and ensuring quality care.

**3.0 RESPONSIBILITY:** Student Employee Health- Infection Control will ensure compliance with this policy.

**4.0 APPLICABILITY:** This policy is applicable to all Students, Employees, and Volunteers of the MSM community.

**5.0 DEFINITIONS**

**Employee**—any person that receives financial compensation for work performed at Morehouse Healthcare, whether merit, contractual, or as a consultant. Although consultants are not considered employees by definition, for the purpose of this policy, consultants will be included in this category.

**Student** – any person enrolled through the Office of Student Affairs at the Morehouse School of Medicine

**Volunteers** – Persons classified through HR providing in-kind services to the MSM community

**Confidentiality** – Pertains to the disclosure of personal information in a relationship of trust and with the expectation that it will not be divulged to others in ways that are inconsistent with the original disclosure. Confidentiality must be maintained for persons who are recommended and/or who receive HIV counseling, testing, and referral services.

**HIV** – Human immunodeficiency virus causes AIDS. HIV type 1 and HIV type 2 are two distinct viruses, with HIV-1 being the most common in the United States.

**Screening test** – An initial test, usually designed to be sensitive, to identify all persons with a given condition or infection. Rapid HIV tests are screening tests.

**Rapid Antibody HIV test** – A test to detect antibodies to HIV that can be collected and processed within a short interval of time (e.g. approximately 1 – 25 minutes). Reactive or “preliminary positive” rapid HIV test results must be confirmed by supplemental HIV testing.

Reactive or **Preliminary positive test** – a reactive or “preliminarily positive” rapid HIV test results suggests that HIV antibodies have been detected. All reactive/preliminary positive results must be confirmed by supplemental testing.

**Supplemental Testing**-- Laboratories use a combination of tests conducted in a sequence to confirm HIV-infection. When the initial HIV test result is reactive, a supplemental antibody differentiation test is done to determine whether a person has HIV-1 or HIV-2. If acute HIV infection is suspected, an HIV-1 nucleic acid test (NAT) will be performed. Both the antibody differentiation test and NAT require blood specimens and must be done in a lab.

**PPE** – Personal Protective Equipment

**CLIA – waived test** – A test system, assay, or examination that has been cleared by the FDA for home use, or has been determined by the FDA to meet the CLIA criteria of being a simple test with an insignificant risk for an erroneous result.

## 6.0 IMPLEMENTATION

1. Appropriate training will be provided to SEHS-IC for using the Rapid Screening test kits to ensure competency and internal consistency.
2. Appropriate PPE (gloves / bio hazardous waste containers) will be used as deemed appropriate per Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines.
3. All results will be logged / tracked and reported to a designated physician expert in HIV / Infectious disease diagnosis and management.
4. Written consent will be offered prior to testing
5. Clients will be given the opportunity to decline or “opt-out” of HIV testing
6. Clients’ confidentiality will be maintained using unique identifiers.
7. Patients with reactive rapid HIV test results will be offered supplemental HIV testing to confirm HIV-infection. Patients agreeing to supplemental testing will have their blood drawn and sent to the lab for additional HIV testing.
8. All supplemental test results will be tracked and must be followed by a designated physician expert in HIV / Infectious disease diagnosis and management within 3 business days.
9. Patients with confirmed HIV-infection will be reported to the State Health Department per Georgia Law. Clients will receive written results and results will be recorded in the tracking log.
10. Tracking logs will be secured for 3 years within SEHS-IC.
11. Screening kits will be stored securely and monitored for inventory as needed per the manufacturers’ recommendations.
12. HIV/AIDS pamphlets /information will be distributed to all clients.
13. Pre and Post HIV counseling will be done when appropriate per Georgia Statute.

## 7.0 Enforcement

Compliance with the above policy will be monitored by Student Employee Health Services – Infection Control. SEHS-IC will ensure quality assurance using waived rapid HIV tests by including the following:

- Training documentation
- Test result log
- Referral / training log
- Inventory log for screening kits

## 7.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this Administrative Policy and Procedure is June 27, 2016

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Derrick Beech, MD  
Sr. Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs