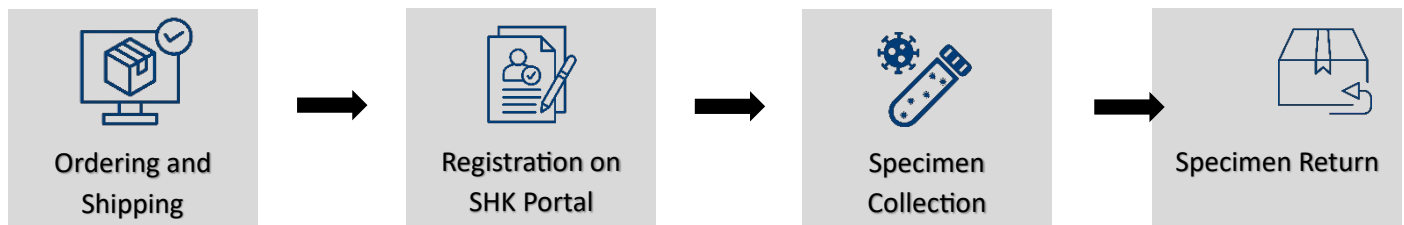


HIV At-Home Testing for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Tuberculosis: Instructions for Local and Tribal Health Departments

Simple HealthKit At-Home HIV Tests

All clients diagnosed or suspected to have active tuberculosis (TB) disease should receive screening for HIV. At-home HIV testing is now available through Simple HealthKit (SHK). The Wisconsin TB Program (WTBP) is providing at-home HIV testing through SHK for clients who may be unable to access testing due to isolation or other reasons. The cost is covered by the Wisconsin TB Dispensary Program (WTBDP).

Simple HealthKit At-Home Test Kit Ordering Process



Ordering A Kit

If a client with active TB needs an HIV test, the WTBP may reach out to the local or Tribal health department (LTHD) and ask if they would like an order placed through Simple HealthKit's online portal. The LTHD may also reach out to the WTBP for TB clients who are unable to access HIV screening. Kits can be requested from the WTBP during normal business hours. The WTBP will ship to the LTHD unless the LTHD requests that the kit goes directly to the client's home address. Kits will take approximately three days to be delivered once the order is placed.

Registration

Simple HealthKit (SHK) has an [online portal](#) with two levels of access to register clients and access test results: patient and provider. The client may create their own account on the SHK portal to register their specimens and see their results online. Clients would need to be proficient in English (no other languages are available on the SHK portal at this time), have access to internet, and have a working email address to create an account and access the patient portal. The LTHD will need to provide the client with their Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS) TB incident number which is the disease incident number at the top right of their WEDSS record.

The WTBP has access to the SHK Provider Portal. Through this portal, WTBP can access all information including patient demographics, tests ordered, and test results.

If the client is unwilling or unable to create a patient account on the portal, the WTBP will register a client on the provider portal. Please notify the WTBP if this is needed.

Consent Process

Prior to specimen collection, the LTHD will obtain consent from the client and be responsible for forwarding the result to the client's provider. This may be done using written or verbal consent. If written



consent is obtained, use the consent forms approved by the LTHD or the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services \(DHS\) form Consent for HIV Testing Form \(F-43018\)](#). If F-43018 is used, the clients will select the confidential HIV testing check box on the consent form, with their name listed on the test result. The result is kept confidential but may be released to specific people under limited circumstances. This allows for reporting positive test results to the State for the purposes of public health disease monitoring and intervention. By Wisconsin Stat. §252.12, anonymous testing needs to be included as an option on the consent form. Anonymous testing means the client's name is not listed on the specimen or the test result. SHK cannot support anonymous testing at this time. The LTHD or provider will need to identify another method for HIV testing if the patient requests anonymous testing.

Specimen Collection

Administer the test following instructions provided by SHK and ship back to SHK via USPS. As noted above, if the client does not have a patient account or if the WTBP registered the client, the WTBP will need to register the specimen on behalf of the client. Please notify the WTBP of the date and time the specimen was collected within 24 hours of specimen collection.

Delivering Reactive Results, Further Testing, and Reporting to the State

Results are available 24–48 hours after the specimen is received by the laboratory. If the client created an account, they will have access to the result on the Patient Portal on Simple HealthKit's website. Here they will be able to view, download, and share results if desired. If a client does not create an account, the WTBP will share the result with the LTHD. The LTHD is responsible for sharing the result to the client and their provider.

If the result is normal (nonreactive), then the result is automatically released on the patient portal.

If the result is abnormal (reactive), results are held as results pending until someone (such as the client's provider or LTHD nurse) can speak with the client to explain the result.

Once the client has been notified of their abnormal (reactive) result the WTBP will release the result and test information for the client to view in the portal.

In the SHK portal there is a section that will explain each result and its meaning along with the next steps to take for the patient. There are also learn more/resource links at the bottom of the webpage for more information. If the at-home test result is abnormal (reactive), SHK's laboratory reports the reactive result through WEDSS to the Wisconsin HIV Program's Surveillance Unit to notify the HIV Partner Services (PS) Coordinator at DHS. The HIV PS coordinator ensures a [Partner Services](#) (PS) provider at the LTHD will follow up to make sure the client is given a confirmatory test. This is typically done with the client's primary care provider or the provider overseeing care for the tuberculosis diagnosis. All clients who receive a reactive result should immediately have a blood specimen collected and sent to the laboratory to confirm their HIV status. The at-home HIV test is only a screening test, and the client will need a confirmatory blood test ordered by their provider. Please refer to the [DHS Understanding the HIV Testing Algorithm factsheet \(P-01835\)](#) for more information about HIV tests.

Wisconsin Stat. §252.05 requires that [HIV as a category III communicable disease](#) is reported directly to DHS. Laboratories send both preliminary and confirmatory HIV test results to the HIV Surveillance Unit at DHS and the ordering providers. The testing sites or the providers report HIV to the Surveillance Unit on a [Wisconsin HIV Case Report Form \(F-44338\)](#) electronically through WEDSS or, by other means within 72 hours after identification of a known or suspect case.



Linking to Care After Abnormal (Reactive) and Confirmed Positive Results

After the client receives a reactive HIV test result and subsequently a confirmatory positive result, the laboratories report the results to the Wisconsin HIV Program's Surveillance Unit at DHS. The testing site or the provider also reports the client demographics, risks (sexual/behavioral information), recent and past HIV testing history, and HIV treatment information to the HIV Surveillance Unit using the WI HIV Case Report Form. After the HIV Surveillance Unit receives this information, they input into a confidential database and will follow up with the testing site, provider, or PS provider for client updates, such as HIV linkage to care outcomes, as needed.

Wisconsin Stat. §252.12 requires DHS to offer PS to persons living with HIV. The [Wisconsin HIV Program](#) within DHS works with LTHDs in providing PS.

Local and Tribal health departments provide PS to offer options to clients living with HIV to inform their sex and needle-sharing partners of their possible exposure to HIV. A PS provider or disease intervention specialist (DIS) meets with the client living with HIV to identify partners who may have been exposed to HIV. PS is a voluntary and confidential service. It is offered routinely to everyone who tests confidentially and is reported to DHS. Whenever possible, and with the client's consent, a linkage to care specialist or case manager should be contacted to meet with a client newly diagnosed with HIV at the agency after their result has been given. The PS provider can assist the client with HIV in linking to appropriate medical care, prevention services, and other services.

All agencies must develop and maintain practices to link clients who test positive for HIV to a medical provider or infectious disease specialist. For both insured and un-insured clients, [linkage to care](#) should be provided. HIV linkage to care specialists and case managers serve as a gateway to HIV medical care and other services.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

- 1) Is return shipping included in the kit?
Yes, the TB program covers the cost of shipping the test kit as well as the cost of returning the kit via mail back to SHK. A return envelope, label, and instructions are provided in the kit that the LTHD receives.
- 2) What does a SHK HIV at-home test kit contain?
Everything the client needs to collect a dried blood sample is inside of the test kit. There is a place for the client to write their name, date of birth, sample date, and time the specimen was collected. Do not worry about the QR code, record the sample ID just as it is written on the sample label. SHK requires two identifiers to be able to process the sample: client's name and DOB.
- 3) Are LTHDs allowed to place an order for a SHK test?
At this point, we are keeping the initial ordering through the TB Program. We will update you if this changes at any point.
- 4) What type of HIV test is this?
The HIV test is an antigen-antibody screening test. The antigen-antibody test is a blood test that looks for both HIV antibodies and the p24 antigen (a protein on the surface of the virus) in the



blood. This type of test is highly accurate and can detect HIV infection earlier than tests that only look for antibodies.

In general, antigen-antibody screening tests can detect HIV infection as early as 2 to 4 weeks after exposure. During this time, the body starts producing HIV antigens and antibodies, which can be detected by this test.

5) What collection methods does the test use?

SHK uses a screening test that checks for HIV infection. To perform the test, a few drops of blood are needed, which are obtained by a finger prick. The blood sample is then collected on a collection card that is provided with the test kit.

6) How fast will I get the results?

Results are available to be accessed on the portal within 24 to 48 hours after the sample arrives at SHK's laboratory.

Please contact the [Wisconsin Tuberculosis Program \(WTBP\)](#) by phone, email, or visit our [DHS webpage](#) for more information or to learn more about our partnership with [Simple HealthKit](#).

