

Refugee Health Microlearning Series: HIV

UPDATED 7/22/2022

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Refugee Health Screening: HIV

- Hello and welcome to the micro-learning series presented by the Refugee Health Program at the Minnesota Department of Health. This series is meant to help providers, clinical teams, and public health better understand best practices for refugee health screenings. This video focuses on **HIV** screening guidance during refugee health assessments.

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What you need to know

Who?

- Universal screening should be considered. At a minimum, all arrivals ages 13-64 or pregnant, regardless of age, should be screened for HIV.
- Those 12 and under should be screened for HIV unless there is a documented negative status for the mother of the child and there are no other risk factors.

What?

- Screening should include laboratory HIV antibody/antigen tests that detect HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies and p24 antigen tests are recommended for screening children greater than 2 years of age.
- Virological assays that detect HIV must be used to diagnose HIV in infants and children under 2 years of age.
- If positive for HIV antibodies, test specifically for HIV-2 antibodies for arrivals from specific countries. See guidance for full list or visit the CareRef website.

When?

- HIV screening should occur during the initial refugee health assessment.
- Repeat screening 3-6 months following resettlement is recommended for arrivals with a recent exposure or high-risk activity, such as individuals who may be in a “window period” before seroconversion.

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Updates in Guidance

Is this different from previous MDH guidance?

- This updated guidance includes screening recommendation for those under 2 years of age as well as for those that may be in the “window period.”
- This updated guidance also has stronger recommendations to screen those 12 and under.

Is this different from national guidance?

- State guidelines do not differ from National guidelines; however Minnesota has specific resources for providers.

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Report Screening Results

- As part of the paperwork for the Refugee Health Assessment that is submitted to the Refugee Health Program, there is a section where HIV screening results can be recorded. Please make sure this section is being filled out appropriately.
- Remember that all positive results must be confirmed.
- Reporting a positive result on the reporting form is in addition to mandatory disease reporting to MDH by phone or using HIV/AIDS confidential case report forms.

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Resources to learn more

- If you're interested in learning more, please look at the full screening guidance and other resources outlined in this page.

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Thank you

- The well-being of all Minnesotans, including those with refugee status, depends on the work and dedication of our partners. Thank you so much for your work.

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