



**DALLAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**

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For Immediate Release – May 16, 2008

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HIV and Its Transmission

Friday, May 16, 2008 (Dallas) – Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is committed to providing the public with accurate and objective information about HIV infection and AIDS. In response to the recent media attention surrounding the assault of police officers by an HIV-positive male, we would like to clarify questions related to known modes of HIV transmission. Extensive research has clearly identified possible ways HIV infections are transmitted. HIV is usually spread by sexual contact with an infected person, by sharing needles with someone who is infected, or by transfusions with infected blood products. Saliva, sweat and tears are **not** considered infectious unless they are visibly bloody. There has been no scientific evidence which finds HIV can be transmitted in other ways, and the U.S. Public Health Service guidelines determines the risk of HIV transmission from such fluids as saliva and tears to be extremely low.

DCHHS is committed to providing our community with accurate and objective information concerning HIV infection. It is important that clear information be readily available to help prevent unnecessary fears and prejudices caused by misconceptions. Further information regarding the transmission of HIV is available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/transmission.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5409a1.htm>

The DCHHS STD Program offers rapid testing, treatment, and partner notification at its clinics located at 2377 North Stemmons Freeway, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call (214) 819-1819. DCHHS Mobile Medical Clinic travels to various locations around the County and offers free testing for HIV, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia. HIV and Syphilis results are available within the hour. Treatment for syphilis and other STDs may be available on site. For more information on the Mobile Medical Clinic or for its schedule and locations, call (214) 819-2136.

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