

What does HIV & AIDS mean?



HIV = Human Immunodeficiency Virus

- ⊙ HIV is a virus that makes the immune system weak by destroying a certain kind of blood cells--CD4+T cells or Helper T Cells--which are necessary to have a normal immune system
- ⊙ Most people feel like they have the flu within a few weeks of being infected
- ⊙ There may be no more signs or symptoms of HIV for years and the person may feel very healthy, even though the virus continues to damage their immune system
- ⊙ Other symptoms eventually develop, like: night sweats, swollen lymph nodes, rapid weight loss, constant tiredness, white spots (thrush) in the mouth, skin problems, or rashes

AIDS = Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

- ⊙ AIDS is the last stage of the HIV virus where the immune system is very weak and it is easy for many illnesses like certain pneumonias and cancers to attack the body
- ⊙ These illnesses are called “opportunistic infections,” which means that they are able to attack the body because the immune system is so weak
- ⊙ A person is diagnosed with AIDS when they develop one of these “opportunistic” infections that mostly healthy people rarely get
or...
- ⊙ If they have a Helper T cell count of less than 350
[Healthy people have Helper T cell counts between 500 – 1,500]

Local Resources

Primary Care

Northern Outreach Clinic - Maria Parham Hospital

252-436-1562

Duke University - Referral Center

888-ASK-DUKE (888-275-3853)

Case Management

AGAPE

252-433-0364

Piedmont Consortium

800-272-9610

Counseling & Support

Partners In Caring - Duke

919-684-3211

HIV/AIDS Support Group - Wake County

919-496-5721

Confidential Testing

Local Health Depts.

Granville 919-693-2141

Vance 252-492-7915

Warren 252-257-1185

Franklin 919-496-2533

Person 336-597-3983

