

## What can a provider do for patients who refuse partner notification?

The NYS Public Health Law (63.8) states that a provider can disclose possible HIV exposure “without the protected person’s [i.e., the HIV-infected patient’s] consent to a contact (partner) or to a public health officer for the purpose of notifying a contact” if the provider:

- Believes the partner is at risk of infection
- Does not believe the patient will notify the partner
- Has told the patient that he or she will notify the partner
- Does not share the patient’s name or other personal information with the partner
- Has conducted a domestic violence screen and concluded there is no risk

Providers can call FSU for help in notifying these partners.

View the law’s full text at:  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/dires/hcpreporting\\_law\\_full63.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/dires/hcpreporting_law_full63.shtml)

## What is the contact notification assistance program (CNAP)?

In health care facilities that lack an onsite FSU public health advisor, and at the request of HIV-infected people or their providers, CNAP notifies partners of their possible exposure to HIV. Providers can get help with both partner elicitation and notification by:

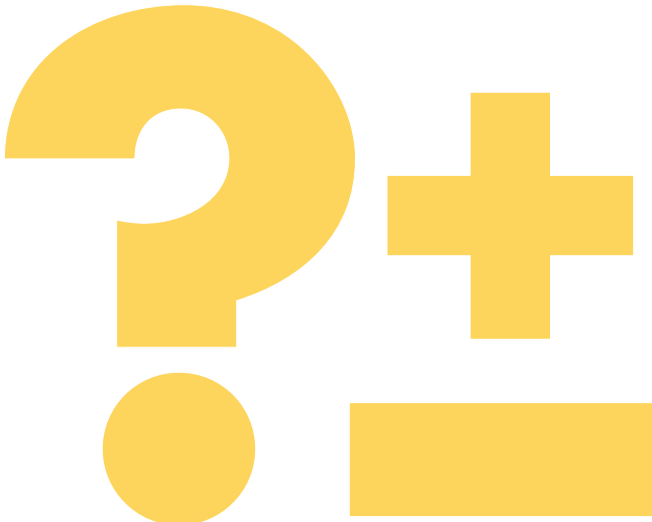
- Calling CNAP at (212) 693-1419, or
- Filling out the *NYS Medical Provider HIV/AIDS and Partner/Contact Report Form*, available through the NYC Department of Health HIV surveillance program
  - **Call:** (212) 442-3388 or
  - **Website:**  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/dires/hcpreporting\\_how.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/dires/hcpreporting_how.shtml)

Patients may remain anonymous but must choose to be identified to CNAP staff by a number, alias or another method. Anonymous patients must inform their provider of their chosen number or alias so that CNAP staff can verify their HIV status.



**Help your patients  
tell their partners:**

**Encourage HIV  
partner notification  
with the NYC  
Health Department**



Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor  
Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH  
Commissioner



## Background

In NYC, an average of three people die of HIV-related causes every day. In 2006, 26% of New Yorkers diagnosed with HIV already had AIDS by the time of their diagnosis, indicating missed opportunities for getting care and preventing HIV transmission to their partners.

In the summer of 2006, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene formed the Field Services Unit (FSU) to work with health care providers (i.e., doctors, counselors, social workers, case managers and nurses) to help address these problems through patient interviews, partner notification and linkage to care.

## What does the New York State Public Health Law say about partner notification?

In 2000, New York State enacted the Public Health Law (63.8) that requires providers to talk to HIV-infected patients about partner notification and report such patients' known sex or needle-sharing partners to the health department.

## What are FSU's major activities?

- Helping HIV-infected patients and their providers notify sex and needle-sharing partners that they may have been exposed to HIV
- Helping notified partners get tested for HIV
- Helping patients and partners who have tested positive for HIV find medical care

## Who should refer an HIV-positive person to the FSU?

Any healthcare provider who diagnoses new cases of HIV infection or treats patients with HIV infection.

## Why should you make a referral to the FSU?

People who are infected with HIV often have sex or needle-sharing partners who do not know their HIV status. Partners informed of their exposure can significantly extend their lives by getting tested for HIV, learning how to prevent infection and receiving timely HIV care if already infected.

## Refer patients to the FSU

Refer any patient with:

- Rapid-test, preliminary-positive HIV results\*
- Positive Western blot results
- Acute HIV infection (i.e., detectable viral load and Western blot negative or indeterminate)
- Positive HIV tests who failed to return for their results
- HIV infection who arrived recently in NYC after being diagnosed elsewhere
- HIV infection since birth (perinatally infected) who are known to be sexually active or injecting drugs
- HIV infection and a newly diagnosed sexually transmitted disease
- HIV infection and past or present sex or needle-sharing partners who may be unaware of their possible exposure

*\* To ensure timely interviews, refer patients with preliminary positive test results immediately to FSU. Partner notification is initiated only after Western blot confirmation.*

## How can you refer a patient to the FSU?

- Call the FSU call-line: (212) 442-6577.
  - Representatives are available Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. At all other times, please leave a message.
- If an FSU public health advisor works in your hospital, you can call his or her cell-phone directly.

## Resources for providers:

### 1. Partner notification services

- Field Services Unit at **(212) 442-6577**
- Contact Notification Assistance Program (CNAP) at **(212) 693-1419**

### 2. General information and materials on HIV and where to get an HIV test

- Dial 311

