**Before You Test Anyone**

Prepare for a Positive

* Call the lab to find out how to submit the confirmatory specimen and how long it will take to get results – note many labs do not run specimens over the weekend.
* Contact the Department of Public Health/Ryan White/agency that will provide your HIV+ client with medical treatment, partner notification, and social services.

Knowing when to test

* A rule of thumb is to make sure that – should a result be preliminary positive – your client will have support from you while waiting for the confirmatory result.
* We recommend testers avoid testing on Fridays or the day before a holiday.
* Schedule testing of clients on the crisis unit to allow time for the confirmatory results to come back before discharge.

Is your client ready to test?

* One way to assess your client’s readiness during to learn their HIV status is to ask how they think they would react if the result is positive.
* If a client threatens violence – to themselves or others – today is not the day for an HIV test.

Learn how to handle a preliminary HIV+ result

* Review the step-by-step guide: *How to Handle a Preliminary HIV-Positive Result* ([www.imaginehope.com](http://www.imaginehope.com) under Resources / HIV+ Alert).
* Assemble the paperwork in a packet so that you’ll be ready when the time comes.