

Information on Viral Testing

What are you being tested for?

As stated in the consent form, to qualify for this study you must test positive for the herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1). The test our lab uses will screen you for both herpes simplex viruses: type 1 and type 2 (HSV-2).

What are HSV-1 and HSV-2?

HSV-1 and HSV-2 are viral infections. Most individuals have no or only minimal signs or symptoms from HSV-1 or HSV-2 infection. In some cases symptoms do occur, and they usually take the form of blisters which can break open and turn into sores. HSV-1 most commonly causes outbreaks around the mouth, known as cold sores or fever blisters, and HSV-2 most commonly causes outbreaks in the genital area, although you can have outbreaks from either virus anywhere on the body. For more information about these viruses you can visit the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website at <http://cdc.gov/std/Herpes/STDFact-Herpes.htm>, or contact your primary care physician.

How will I be notified of my results?

- If you are eligible for the study: you will be scheduled for the second screening visit and notified of your HSV results by a study psychiatrist during that visit.
- If you are not eligible for the study:
 - *If you are HSV-2 negative:* you will be notified over the phone by a study staff member.
 - *If you are HSV-2 positive:* you will be notified over the phone by a study psychiatrist. If the psychiatrist cannot get in touch with you after three attempts then you will be sent a letter to the address you provided notifying you of these results.

What should I do if I test positive for either virus?

You should contact your primary care physician for more information about treatment and outbreak prevention. You can also visit the CDC website at <http://cdc.gov/std/Herpes/STDFact-Herpes.htm> for more information.



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