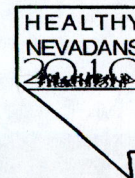




# Nevada State Health Division Technical Bulletin



**Topic:** HIV Testing. SB 304 (2009) New Requirements

**Section/Program:** Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness/HIV Prevention Program

**Bulletin Number:**

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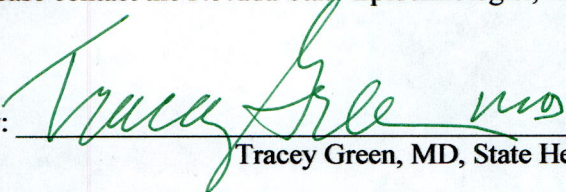
**TO: HIV/AIDS Service Providers and HIV/AIDS Community Based Organizations**

A study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that 1 in 4 Americans infected with HIV are unaware of their infection. To reduce the number of Americans who are not aware of their HIV status, the CDC has intensified HIV testing efforts in recent years (CDC, 2006); therefore, increasing HIV testing services in Nevada is a public health priority. During the 75<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session (2009), Senate Bill (SB) 304 was passed and amends Section 2 of NRS 652.123 to exempt the rapid HIV test from more stringent regulations required by the State Board of Health which are required for other laboratory tests. Senate Bill (SB) 304 became effective on July 1, 2009.

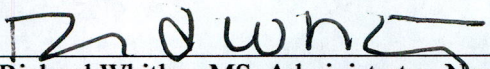
SB 304 allows for increased HIV rapid testing to be conducted in clinical and non-clinical settings, ultimately identifying HIV-positive individuals, referring them into treatment, and reducing exposure to others. Amending Section 2 of NRS 652.123 makes it easier for community-based and HIV/AIDS service organizations to conduct HIV rapid tests. It would ensure that those persons identified as being HIV-positive receive immediate and appropriate linkages to care. Expansion of HIV testing in both clinical and non-clinical settings would allow for earlier identification of HIV positive persons, improve their quality of life, and reduce their chances of infecting others.

For information on HIV in Nevada, please visit the Nevada State Health Division HIV Prevention Program website at: [http://health.nv.gov/CD\\_HIV\\_Programs.htm#HIVPrevention](http://health.nv.gov/CD_HIV_Programs.htm#HIVPrevention) . For technical questions, please contact the Nevada State Epidemiologist, Ihsan Azzam, MD, MPH at 775-684-4200.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Tracey Green, MD, State Health Officer

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