

# How Testing for HIV Can Protect Your Unborn Baby

HIV infection in a pregnant woman can pass from mother to child anytime during pregnancy, delivery, and breastfeeding. HIV infection is not curable, but early detection during pregnancy and linkage to care before delivery can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to the unborn baby by 99% or more. Unless the pregnant woman has an HIV infection, she should get tested at:

- First prenatal visit,
- Between 28 and 32 weeks, and
- During labor and delivery

Include HIV screening in the routine panel of prenatal screening tests for all pregnant women. Separate written consent for HIV testing is not required. A general consent for medical care is sufficient for HIV testing.

## Your unborn baby is at risk if you:

- Don't get prenatal STD testing
- Have a new sex partner
- Have multiple sex partners
- Have unprotected sex
- Use illicit drugs
- Trade sex for money

- Are a man who has sex with men and your pregnant partner

## Take Action to Protect Your Baby:

Men and women should take action to protect their unborn baby.

- Remind your prenatal care provider to test you at the first prenatal visit, between 28 and 32 weeks, and during labor and delivery.
- Health insurance or not, get testing and treatment free at any local health department – Visit <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/about/locations.html>
- Do the test at home - Request a free STD Testing Kit at <https://adph.mybinxhealth.com>
- For questions, call 334-206-5350
- For more facts, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/std/pregnancy/stdfact-pregnancy-detailed.htm>
- **Early Detection of HIV in both the pregnant woman and her partner + Early Treatment of both the pregnant woman and her partner = A healthy Baby**

