

# Public Health Points

York City Bureau of Health

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## FDA Approves At-Home HIV Quick Test

After decades of controversy, the U.S. Food and Drug Agency (FDA) approved this month a new HIV test that for the first time makes it possible for Americans to learn in the privacy of their homes whether they are infected. The OraQuick test, by OraSure Technologies, uses a mouth swab and gives results in 20 to 40 minutes. A previous test sold over the counter required a user to prick a finger and mail a drop of dried blood on filter paper to a laboratory. Results would usually be available in 7 to 10 days.

About 20 percent of the 1.2 million infected Americans do not know they have the disease, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates, and about 50,000 more get infected each year. The idea of a home test has long been mired in controversy. The first application for one was made in 1987, and the FDA has been considering OraSure's simple mouth-swab test since 2005.

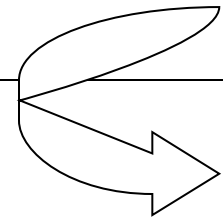
The new test has some drawbacks. While it is extremely accurate when administered by medical professionals, it is less so when used by consumers. Researchers found the home test accurate in 99.98 percent of the time for people who do not have the virus. By comparison, they found it to be accurate 92 percent of the time in detecting people who do. So, while only about one person in 5,000 would get a false positive test, about one person in 12 could get a false negative.

Another concern is the "window period" between the time someone gets the virus and begins to develop the antibodies to it, which the test detects. That time period can take up to three months. For some individuals, depending on when the exposure to HIV might have been, two tests rather than one test may be needed.

Any positive test needs confirmation in a doctor's office. The home test should be available in 30,000 pharmacies, grocery stores and online retailers by October.

## Reportable Conditions – 2012 City of York, Pa

Reported Cases	June	Total
Animal Bites	4	47
Campylobacter Enteritis	0	2
Chlamydia	45	281
Cryptosporidiosis	0	1
Gonorrhea	35	184
Hepatitis B	0	1
Hepatitis C	3	44
HIV Infection	2	7
Influenza, Type A	0	1
Influenza, Type B	0	3
Invasive Group A Beta-Strep Disease	0	2
Lead Poisoning	3	15
Lyme Disease	1	2
Meningitis – Bacterial	1	1
Pertussis	0	1
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection	0	35
Salmonellosis	2	4
Syphilis – Primary/Secondary	0	1
<b>Total Case Reports</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>632</b>



Now is a good time to get your children's school immunizations.

Our Clinic schedule is:

Monday 8:30 -11:00 a.m. and 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday 8:30 -11:00 a.m.

Call the Health Bureau at 815-0910 to make an appointment.

## **Positive Mosquito Collections for West Nile Virus Continue To Increase in York County and York City**

The York County West Nile Program Office reports a continuing increase in the number of positive mosquito samples for West Nile Virus (WNV) for the York County area, including the City of York. According to the County Office, 31 counties in Pennsylvania have now collected positive mosquito samples and York County currently ranks first in PA for the detection of WNV.

When WNV is transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes, a range of illness signs and symptoms can occur – from little or no illness at all to West Nile fever to West Nile encephalitis, the most serious consequence of WNV infection. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all residents of areas where virus activity has been detected are at risk of getting West Nile encephalitis.

The York County West Nile Program Office advises all residents, businesses, developers, farmers and municipalities to clean up to help eliminate mosquitoes. Property should be inspected for sources of stagnant water that can collect in traps, tires, buckets, construction debris, trash, pools, plastic toys, gutters, watering troughs and birdbaths. Eliminating these sources of stagnant water is the best method to reduce mosquito populations that can transmit WNV.

Additional sources for breeding mosquitoes can be rain barrels and ornamental ponds. Rain barrels need to be completely screened. Ornamental ponds and fountains need to be stocked with fish or treated with a bacterial larvicide available at most hardware stores.

For more information about reducing mosquitoes in York County call the Penn State Cooperative Extension – York County West Nile Program Office at (717) 840-2375. For information about West Nile illness in humans, visit the PA State West Nile website at [www.westnile.state.pa.us](http://www.westnile.state.pa.us).

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