



# NO TIME TO WAIT!

**Protect your  
baby's life -  
take them for  
an HIV test**

**As parents and caregivers we want to care for our children as best we can - this includes protecting them against HIV. Here's what you need to know:**

## “How could our baby have HIV?”

Babies can come into contact with HIV during pregnancy, when they are born or during breastfeeding, especially if the mother does not know she has HIV or is not on treatment.

## “But our baby is healthy”

Your baby may look well, but there are not always symptoms at first. HIV is dangerous in young children and they can become ill very quickly. The only way to know for sure if your baby has HIV is to get them tested.

## “Where can we get our baby tested?”

Talk to any health worker or take your baby to the nearest clinic and ask for the test.

## “What happens at the test?”

A health worker will prick your baby’s foot with a pin and take a spot of blood to be tested. Some clinics can give you the test result on the same day, and in other clinics the sample is sent away to be tested and you need to go back later to get the results. It is very important that you collect the results so that you know if your baby has HIV.

## “What if our baby has HIV?”

The baby can be put on treatment straight away. All the care and medicine that they need will be free.

HIV treatment works very well. The sooner your child is diagnosed the sooner they can start treatment. If your child is diagnosed early and takes their medicine, they can grow up and have a long, healthy life.

## “Our baby was tested and does not have HIV”

That is great news, but children can still be exposed to HIV during breastfeeding. It is important to take your baby back for another test when they are 9 months old and when they stop breastfeeding.

### REMEMBER

A simple test could save your baby’s life. Take them for an HIV test today.





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