



The Milk Bank
HUMAN MILK SAVES LIVES

Blood Testing Information

Testing Required for Milk Donors

All milk donors must be tested for communicable diseases. These include HIV-1 & 2, HTLV-1 & 2, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and Syphilis. Our donor team will arrange for you to have these tests after receiving your completed donor packet. The Milk Bank covers all costs associated with blood testing. All test results are confidential, and you will be notified if the results are of medical significance.

What is AIDS?

AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is a condition caused by HIV (the AIDS virus) in which the body's normal defense mechanisms against certain infectious diseases are severely reduced. As a result, patients develop unusual infections and cancers, and they ultimately die of these complications. There is no known cure for AIDS. Although, some people may be infected by HIV and have mild or no symptoms, it is believed that anyone infected by the virus may infect others by certain routes.

What Does AIDS Have To Do With Donating Milk?

An infant who receives Pasteurized Donor Human Milk is extremely vulnerable to infections. It is known that HIV can be found in the milk of infected women and can be spread via body fluids like breast milk. Potential donors who might be high risk are asked to voluntarily refrain from applying to donate breast milk. If you have any concerns or questions about whether you are in a high-risk group, please contact our donor team.

Who Is at Risk?

Certain groups are at high-risk of contracting HIV as well as passing the virus to others:

- Those with a positive result when tested for HIV
- Those with symptoms and signs of AIDS (unexplained enlarges lymph nodes, unexplained weight loss, night sweats, chronic diarrhea, fungal and viral infections of the mouth, unexplained dark skin nodules)
- History of substance misuse of non-medical, injected drugs
- Hemophiliacs who have received clotting factor concentrates.
- Sexual partners who are HIV positive, or those who are at risk for HIV infections.
- Anyone who engages in sexual activity for money or drugs within the last 12 months including their sexual partners.
- Men who have had sex with another man since 1977.