



# YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

“Working Together to Achieve Excellent Health”

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are my chances of getting a disease because of this?**

There is a very low chance of disease transmission because the 13 sets of instruments went through two of the three-step process needed to certify sterilization. The dental instruments were wiped down, run through an ultrasonic cleaner that contained a detergent solution, dried, and packaged for the sterilizer. But the sterilization cycle was not completed on those packs.

Because of this, the CDC does not require blood testing, but YKHC is offering patients treated during this time to receive blood testing to relieve any sense of concern.

### **I’ve been seen in the YKHC Dental Clinic within the last couple of months, should I get my blood tested?**

Only individuals treated in the dental clinic September 13-21, 2016 are asked if they would like to get their blood tested.

### **How do you know potential exposure only happened during those dates?**

YKHC Dental Clinic uses a sterilizer log to track lot number, date, number of pieces in the lot, and certification of completion. This provided the information needed to determine the dates of potential error.

Since this incident, YKHC has conducted multiple tests to verify sterilization of all dental instruments in clinic. It has also added additional measures to prevent this error again.

### **Why do I need to be tested for hepatitis C, hepatitis B, and HIV?**

Although the CDC feels the risk of disease transmission is so low that blood testing is not required, these are the diseases they recommend testing for.

### **Why can’t you tell me specifically if I’m one of the 13 individuals?**

There is not a mechanism to track what instrument pack has been used on what patient. For this reason, YKHC is offering anyone treated during the week of September 13-21, 2016 to get his or her blood tested.

### **Do I need to schedule an appointment at the hospital to get my blood drawn?**

No. Bethel-based patients only need to check in at registration and register for lab only. An appointment with a doctor is not necessary.

### **I live in a village, how can I get my blood drawn?**

In communities where potentially exposed patients reside, YKHC providers will be contacting patients directly to schedule appropriate follow-up.

### **I haven’t been able to contact someone, who can I reach out to?**

Patients are encouraged to call 1-844-543-6361 for more information and to answer any questions.

### **Why should I call the 1-844 number and not the dental clinic directly?**

YKHC created a toll-free number to ensure nurses are available to answer medically related questions.