

# Molecular HIV Surveillance (MHS)

## What is Public Health Surveillance?

Surveillance is the routine collection of health information by a health department from hospitals, medical providers, and laboratories.

This data helps to identify potential public health emergencies and monitor health conditions. By knowing this information, the Houston Health Department (HHD) can help create healthier communities.

## Key Terms

**Drug Resistance Testing** - A lab test used to determine which HIV treatment will be most effective for a person living with HIV

**HIV Genetic Information** - The genetic material of HIV

## Contact Us!

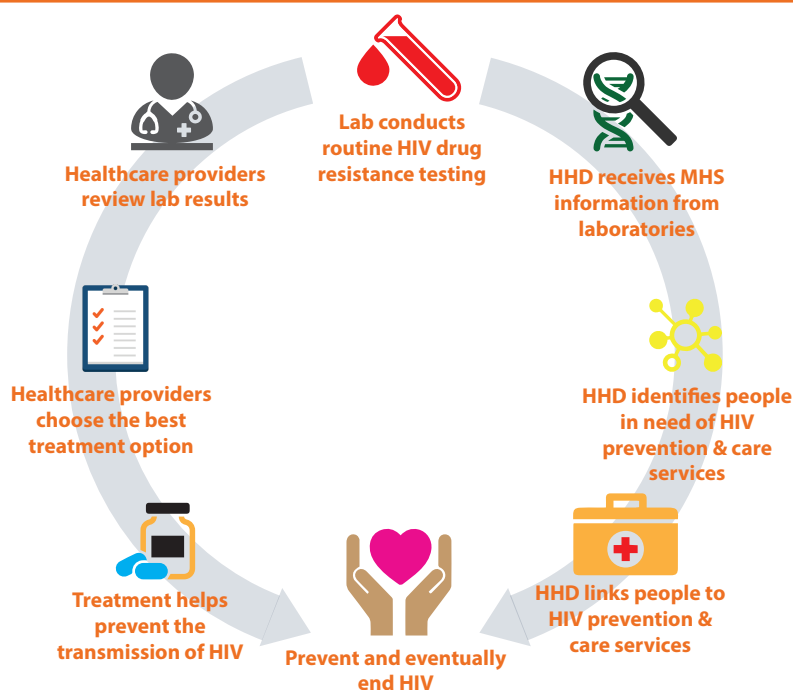
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## What is Molecular HIV Surveillance?

Molecular HIV Surveillance (MHS) is the routine collection of HIV genetic information by health departments from laboratories. This information is collected during an HIV drug resistance test ordered by an HIV medical care provider. Testing requires a blood sample. The genetic information that is collected is not the genetic information of the person but the genetic information of HIV.

## How is MHS Data Used?



## Is My Health Information Safe?

By law, certain health information is required to be sent to the health department by hospitals, medical providers, and laboratories. The health department is also required to protect and prevent any personal information from being released. De-identified health information is regularly sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). All health information collected by the health department is confidential.