

Fifty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1410

Introduced by

Representatives Grande, Devlin, Kreidt

Senator J. Lee

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 23-07.5-01, 23-07.5-02, 23-07.5-04,  
2 23-07.5-06, and 23-07.5-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to testing for exposure  
3 to bloodborne pathogens; and to repeal chapter 23-07.3 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
4 relating to notification of exposure to infectious diseases.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-07.5-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **23-07.5-01. Definitions.** In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 9 1. "Bloodborne pathogen" means a microorganism that is present in human blood or  
10 in other bodily fluid or tissue which can cause a disease in humans, including the  
11 hepatitis B virus, the hepatitis C virus, and the human immunodeficiency virus, and  
12 for which testing is recommended by the United States public health service.
- 13 2. "Exposed individual" means a human being who had a significant exposure with  
14 another individual who is subject to testing and who is a an individual, including a  
15 patient, health care provider, firefighter, peace officer, correctional officer, court  
16 officer, law enforcement officer, emergency medical technician, or an individual  
17 trained and authorized by law or rule to render emergency medical assistance or  
18 treatment, including a person an individual rendering aid under chapter 32-03.1,  
19 who is exposed to a bloodborne pathogen.
- 20 3. "Exposure" means a percutaneous injury, including a needle stick or cut with a  
21 sharp object; contact with blood, body fluid, or tissue of a mucous membrane or  
22 nonintact skin, including exposed skin that is chapped, abraded, or afflicted with  
23 dermatitis; or contact with other body fluids that are potentially infectious as  
24 determined under guidelines of the United States public health service.

- 1           2. ~~"Health care provider" means any person licensed, certified, or otherwise~~  
2           ~~authorized by the law of this state to provide health care services.~~
- 3           ~~3.~~ 4. "Health care services" means any services included in the furnishing to ~~any~~ an  
4           individual of hospitalization, or medical or dental care, or any services incident to  
5           the furnishing of that care or hospitalization, as well as the furnishing to ~~any person~~  
6           an individual of any other services for the purpose of preventing, alleviating, curing,  
7           or healing human illness or injury.
- 8           4. ~~"Human immunodeficiency virus" means any identified causative agent of acquired~~  
9           ~~immune deficiency syndrome.~~
- 10          5. ~~"Human immunodeficiency virus infection" means the pathological state produced~~  
11          ~~by a human body in response to the presence of the human immunodeficiency~~  
12          ~~virus~~ "Health care provider" means an individual licensed, certified, or otherwise  
13          authorized by the law of this state to provide health care and includes personnel at  
14          the state crime laboratory or any commercial or research laboratory that handles  
15          blood, body fluid, or tissues.
- 16          6. "Informed consent for testing" means ~~the written permission of an individual to be~~  
17          ~~tested for the presence of the human immunodeficiency virus~~ that the individual to  
18          be tested for bloodborne pathogens has been informed of the nature of the testing;  
19          the reason for the testing; the relevant risks, benefits, and potential alternatives for  
20          testing; and the individual has granted permission to be tested.
- 21          7. ~~"Informed consent form" means a printed document on which an individual may~~  
22          ~~signify that individual's permission to be tested for the presence of the human~~  
23          ~~immunodeficiency virus~~ "Personal representative" means any person who has  
24          authority under law to act on behalf of an individual or deceased individual in  
25          making decisions related to health care or health information.
- 26          8. ~~"Personal physician" means the physician designated by a patient or individual~~  
27          ~~who has had a significant exposure as the patient's or individual's primary~~  
28          ~~physician or if no physician has been designated or the designated physician is~~  
29          ~~unable to make a determination as to whether a significant exposure has occurred;~~  
30          ~~the patient's primary attending physician. The term means the local health officer~~  
31          ~~having jurisdiction in the area the significant exposure has allegedly occurred if the~~

1           ~~patient has no attending physician or designated primary physician~~ "Test subject"  
2           ~~means the individual who is the source of the blood, other bodily fluids, or tissue~~  
3           ~~that caused the exposure.~~

4           9. ~~"Significant exposure" means:~~

5           a. ~~Contact of broken skin or mucous membrane with a patient's blood or bodily~~  
6           ~~fluids other than tears or perspiration;~~

7           b. ~~The occurrence of a needle stick or scalpel or instrument wound in the~~  
8           ~~process of caring for a patient; or~~

9           e. ~~Exposure that occurs by any other method of transmission defined by the~~  
10           ~~state department of health as a significant exposure.~~

11          10. ~~"Universal precautions" means measures that a health care provider, emergency~~  
12           ~~medical technician, exposed individual, or an individual rendering aid under~~  
13           ~~chapter 32-03.1 takes in accordance with recommendations of the United States~~  
14           ~~public health service to prevent transmission of disease.~~

15           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-07.5-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
16   amended and reenacted as follows:

17           **23-07.5-02. Informed consent for testing - Exception.**

18          1. Except when testing is otherwise ~~provided for~~ permitted by law, a health care  
19           provider, blood bank, blood center, or plasma center may not subject ~~a person~~ an  
20           ~~individual who is the source of an exposure~~ to a test for ~~the presence of the human~~  
21           ~~immunodeficiency virus~~ bloodborne pathogens unless the subject of the test, ~~the~~  
22           ~~parent or legal guardian or custodian of the subject's personal representative if the~~  
23           ~~subject is a minor who is the subject of the test, or the legal guardian of an~~ is  
24           ~~incapacitated person who is the subject of the test, first provides informed consent~~  
25           ~~for testing as provided under subsection 2.~~

26          2. ~~A health care provider, blood bank, blood center, or plasma center that subjects an~~  
27           ~~individual to a test for the presence of the human immunodeficiency virus under~~  
28           ~~subsection 1 shall provide the potential test subject, the parent or legal guardian or~~  
29           ~~eustodian of a potential test subject that is a minor, or the legal guardian of a~~  
30           ~~potential test subject who is incapacitated, with an informed consent form and shall~~  
31           ~~obtain the appropriate individual's signature on the form. The form must contain:~~

- 1 a. ~~The name of the potential test subject who is giving consent for testing and~~  
2 ~~whose test results may be disclosed and, when appropriate, the name of the~~  
3 ~~individual providing consent on behalf of the potential test subject.~~
- 4 b. ~~A statement of explanation that the test results may be disclosed as~~  
5 ~~authorized by law.~~
- 6 e. ~~Space specifically designated for the signature of the person providing~~  
7 ~~informed consent for the testing and the date on which the consent is signed.~~
- 8 3. ~~A health care provider or an exposed individual who had a significant exposure~~  
9 ~~with another individual may subject~~ If an individual who is the source of an  
10 exposure has had blood drawn that is available for testing and the individual has  
11 refused to grant consent to have that individual's blood tested for bloodborne  
12 pathogens, that individual's blood may be subjected to a test for the presence of  
13 the human immunodeficiency virus bloodborne pathogens, without that individual's  
14 consent, if all of the following apply:
- 15 a. ~~A blood sample of the individual who is the test subject has been drawn for~~  
16 ~~other purposes and is available to be used to test for the presence of the~~  
17 ~~human immunodeficiency virus.~~
- 18 b. ~~The personal physician of the individual exposed, a physician or other~~  
19 ~~qualified health care provider based on available information provided to the~~  
20 ~~physician, determines and certifies in writing that the individual had a~~  
21 ~~significant an exposure. The certification must accompany the request for~~  
22 ~~testing and disclosure.~~
- 23 e. ~~The test subject is capable of consenting when the test is requested, has~~  
24 ~~been given an opportunity to be tested with consent, and has not consented.~~
- 25 d. ~~Before and before testing, the test subject is informed, while competent and~~  
26 ~~conscientious, that the test subject's blood may be tested for the presence of~~  
27 ~~human immunodeficiency virus bloodborne pathogens; that the test results~~  
28 ~~may not be disclosed to no one without the test subject's consent~~  
29 authorization, except to the exposed individual, the individual's health care  
30 provider, the department, and any other person as authorized by law; that if  
31 the exposed individual knows the identity of the test subject, the exposed

- 1 individual may not disclose the identity ~~to any other person~~ of the test subject  
2 except for the purpose of having the test performed; and that a record of the  
3 test results may be ~~placed~~ kept in the ~~test subject's~~ exposed individual's  
4 medical record, ~~and if not in the medical record, may be kept~~ only if the record  
5 does not reveal the test subject's identity. Each exposed individual who had  
6 a significant an exposure and to whom test results are disclosed must first  
7 ~~sign~~ be given a document indicating the exposed individual's understanding  
8 that the exposed individual may not disclose the ~~patient's~~ test subject's  
9 identity and that disclosing ~~the~~ this information constitutes a class C felony.
- 10 4. ~~A patient who has received care from a health care provider, emergency medical~~  
11 ~~services provider, or a person rendering aid under chapter 32-03.1 and who has~~  
12 ~~had a significant exposure with the provider may subject the provider's blood to a~~  
13 ~~test for the presence of the human immunodeficiency virus, without the provider's~~  
14 ~~consent, if all of the following apply:~~
- 15 a. ~~A sample of the provider's blood has been drawn for other purposes and is~~  
16 ~~available to be used to test for the presence of the human immunodeficiency~~  
17 ~~virus.~~
- 18 b. ~~A physician, based on information provided to the physician, determines and~~  
19 ~~certifies in writing that the patient has had a significant exposure. The~~  
20 ~~certification must accompany the request for testing and disclosure.~~
- 21 e. ~~The provider or a person rendering aid under chapter 32-03.1 is capable of~~  
22 ~~consenting when the test is requested, has been given an opportunity to be~~  
23 ~~tested with consent, and has not consented.~~
- 24 d. ~~Before testing, the provider is informed, while competent and conscious, that~~  
25 ~~the provider's blood may be tested for the presence of human~~  
26 ~~immunodeficiency virus; that the test results may be disclosed to the provider,~~  
27 ~~the individual who has had a significant exposure, and any other person as~~  
28 ~~authorized by law; that if the patient who has had a significant exposure~~  
29 ~~knows the identity of the provider, that patient may not disclose the identity to~~  
30 ~~any other person except for the purpose of having the test performed; and~~  
31 ~~that a record may be kept of the test results only if the record does not reveal~~

1                   ~~the provider's identity. Each patient who has had a significant exposure and~~  
2                   ~~to whom test results are disclosed must first sign a document indicating the~~  
3                   ~~patient's understanding that the patient may not disclose the provider's~~  
4                   ~~identity and that disclosing the information constitutes a class C felony.~~

5       5- 3. If an individual who is the subject of ~~a significant~~ an exposure is ~~unconscious or~~  
6       incapable of giving informed consent for testing under this section, that consent  
7       may be obtained ~~in accordance with section 23-12-13~~ from the individual's  
8       personal representative. If an individual who is the subject of ~~a significant~~ an  
9       exposure dies without an opportunity to consent to testing, collection of appropriate  
10      specimens and testing for the presence of bloodborne pathogens, ~~including human~~  
11      ~~immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C infection~~ must be conducted  
12      ~~within twenty four hours~~ as soon as reasonably possible. ~~A licensed physician~~  
13      ~~with expertise in infectious diseases shall make the determination of which tests~~  
14      ~~are required~~. Results of these tests must be provided to the physician providing  
15      care for the individual who experienced the ~~significant~~ exposure. If a facility that  
16      received the individual who died fails to test for the presence of bloodborne  
17      pathogens as required under this subsection because the facility was not aware of  
18      the exposure or it was not reasonably possible to conduct testing, the facility shall  
19      provide the physician providing care for the exposed individual or health care  
20      provider testing results of any bloodborne pathogen present in any medical records  
21      of the ~~dead person~~ deceased individual which are in the facility's control ~~within~~  
22      ~~twenty four hours~~ as soon as reasonably possible. If there are no testing results  
23      for bloodborne pathogens within that facility and there is reason to believe that  
24      results are available from another facility, the facility that received the ~~person who~~  
25      ~~died~~ deceased individual shall attempt to obtain testing results of bloodborne  
26      pathogens of the deceased ~~within twenty four hours~~ individual as soon as  
27      reasonably possible from the facility where it is believed results exist. The test  
28      results must be provided to the physician providing care for the individual who  
29      experienced the ~~significant~~ exposure.

30      6- 4. A test for bloodborne pathogens must be conducted according to  
31      recommendations of the United States public health service. Any testing done

1           pursuant to subsection 2 or 3, 4, or 5 must be conducted in a reasonably  
2           expedient manner. ~~An individual who has had a significant exposure, upon~~  
3           ~~receiving certification of the significant exposure as required by subdivision b of~~  
4           ~~subsection 3 or subdivision b of subsection 4, may petition an appropriate~~ The  
5           ~~district court for issuance of~~ in the county where the alleged exposure occurred or  
6           ~~in which the individual to be tested resides shall issue an order directing another~~  
7           ~~the individual, patient, or provider with whom the individual had a significant~~ who  
8           ~~was the source of an~~ exposure to have blood drawn to be tested for the presence  
9           ~~of the human immunodeficiency virus if a previously drawn blood sample is not~~  
10          ~~available for testing. Upon receiving the petition, the court may issue an order~~  
11          ~~confining the test subject to be tested until the hearing or an order establishing~~  
12          ~~reasonable security for that person's attendance at the hearing. This order may be~~  
13          ~~modified or extended if testing is ordered. The court shall hold a hearing on the~~  
14          ~~petition within three days of the date the court receives the petition~~ bloodborne  
15          ~~pathogens. An affidavit from a physician or other qualified health care provider~~  
16          ~~showing that an exposure has occurred is prima facie evidence of those facts. The~~  
17          ~~affidavit may not be excluded as hearsay if the affidavit is based on evidence~~  
18          ~~generally relied on by a health care provider, including statements from the~~  
19          ~~provider's patient.~~ The record of any court hearing conducted under this subsection  
20          is confidential. The court may shall issue an order requiring testing under this  
21          subsection only if:  
22          a. ~~The other individual, patient, or provider has been requested to consent to~~  
23             ~~testing and has refused to be tested and a sample of the test subject's blood~~  
24             ~~is not available to be used to test for the human immunodeficiency virus;~~  
25          b. ~~The court finds probable cause to believe that the person~~ individual  
26             ~~petitioning for the testing had a significant~~ an ~~exposure with the test subject;~~  
27          e. b. ~~The petition substitutes a pseudonym for the true name of the test subject;~~  
28          e. c. ~~The court provides the test subject with notice and reasonable opportunity to~~  
29             ~~participate in the proceeding if the person is not already a party to the~~  
30             ~~proceeding;~~



1           **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-07.5-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3           **23-07.5-04. Record maintenance.** A health care provider, ~~blood bank, blood center,~~  
4 ~~or plasma center that~~ who collects a specimen of body fluids or tissues for the purpose of  
5 testing for the presence of ~~an antibody to the human immunodeficiency virus~~ bloodborne  
6 pathogens caused by an exposure shall:

- 7           1. ~~Obtain~~ obtain from the test subject; ~~the subject's parent, legal guardian, or~~  
8            ~~eustodian if the subject is a minor;~~ or the test subject's legal guardian personal  
9            representative if the subject is a minor or is incapacitated, informed consent for  
10           testing; unless testing is otherwise authorized by law.
- 11           2. ~~Maintain a record of the consent received under subsection 1.~~
- 12           3. ~~Maintain~~ In addition, the health care provider shall maintain a record of the test  
13           results obtained.

14           **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-07.5-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16           **23-07.5-06. Expanded disclosure of test results prohibited.** ~~A person~~

- 17           1. The results of a test for bloodborne pathogens may be disclosed only to the  
18           individual who was tested; to an exposed individual for whom a test was  
19           conducted; and to the exposed individual's health care provider as provided by this  
20           chapter, and as permitted under title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, part 164,  
21           section 512.
- 22           2. An exposed individual to whom the results of a test for ~~the human~~  
23           ~~immunodeficiency virus~~ bloodborne pathogens have been disclosed under this  
24           chapter may not disclose the test results except as authorized by law.

25           **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-07.5-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27           **23-07.5-07. Civil liability.** ~~Any person~~ An individual who knowingly violates section  
28 23-07.5-06 is liable to the subject of the test for actual damages and costs plus exemplary  
29 damages. A conviction for violation of this chapter is not a condition precedent to bringing an  
30 action under this section.

- 1           **SECTION 6. REPEAL.** Chapter 23-07.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is
- 2 repealed.