



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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CLARIFICATION FROM LAB INDICATES HIV TEST NOT FROM SAN DIEGO

Further Investigation Reveals Strain of Possibly Rare, Aggressive Strain Not a Local Sample

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency has learned that a lab test attributed to a San Diego patient indicating a possibly rare, aggressive, drug-resistant strain of HIV was not a local sample.

“We have been told by the lab that ran the test that they are certain that this test was not from a San Diego-area patient,” said Nancy Bowen, M.D., San Diego County Public Health Officer.

The *New York Times* ran a story Monday, Feb. 14 that indicated that one of two similar samples of the new strain was from an unidentified patient in San Diego who was apparently infected before a New York City man who reportedly has the strain. The sample was found after officials studied records of a commercial laboratory in the San Francisco area, which reportedly showed that the two samples shared genetic characteristics resembling each other.

After seeing the *New York Times* story, HHSA officials felt it was important to give the local public as much information as possible.

The new information does not change the need for the public to be vigilant about prevention of the spread of HIV, and to get tested for HIV if engaging in risky behavior.

“We are still concerned that HIV is being transmitted in this community,” Bowen said. “HIV is dangerous and people need to be extremely cautious.”

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