



25% of people with HIV do not know they have the virus and can be responsible for 75% of new HIV infections.

Patient information—Routine HIV testing

Why is an HIV test being offered?

We are offering an HIV test to *all adults*.

Knowing your HIV status is important *for your* health and health care. People with HIV often have *no symptoms* for many years. During this time, your health may be affected without you knowing. The only way to *know* for sure is to have an HIV test.

An HIV blood test is *simple*. It can be done with all your blood tests.

HIV is *treatable* with medication. The medication will keep your immune system strong. People with HIV who are treated can live long and productive lives.

What you need to know

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a virus that attacks the immune system. The immune system helps your body fight off infection.

HIV infection is a chronic illness that can be treated with medication. Like diabetes, there is no cure for HIV. But people with HIV who are treated can stay healthy and are less likely to pass the virus onto others. This is because the amount of virus in the body can be controlled by medication.

HIV can lead to Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) if you are not treated with anti-HIV medication.

HIV can *spread* from one person to another during *unprotected sex* (vaginal, anal, and sometimes oral) *or by*

blood contact (such as sharing needles) with someone who has HIV.

HIV is a ‘reportable’ infection. This means that positive test results are sent to the Medical Health Officer, who is a public health doctor, and a nurse, who are responsible for the care of people who may have been exposed to HIV. The role of the nurse is to offer you completely *confidential* nursing support.

You have the right to refuse to be tested for HIV.



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HIV101.ca

Test results

The test results may take up to two weeks to be returned.

The test is not able to detect early HIV infection. If you believe you may have been at risk of contracting HIV within the last three months, you should get tested now and *again* in three months. If your test is negative, you may consider being retested.

If you test positive

Your doctor and/or nurse will give you the results. You will also receive support, education, and help with follow-up health care and treatment.

Your current or past sexual partners should be informed that they need to be tested for HIV. The nurse will work with you to notify your partners, or can inform them without identifying you.

HIV is treatable and, while it is a chronic infection with no cure, medications are available that can assist you to live a healthy and productive life.

If you test positive for HIV, your test result is kept in both a provincial database and other health care databases. We collect, use and disclose

information only where permitted or authorized by the *BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. For more information go to “Disclosure Directives” in the Resources section.

The face of HIV has changed. The virus knows no boundaries. If you are *sexually active or have a significant blood-to-blood exposure, you are at risk and should be tested*.

Resources

General Health Information - phone 8-1-1

www.healthlinkbc.ca

- HIV Infection Information
- HIV Testing Information

Nurse - Northern Health Regional Communicable Diseases Line
1-855-565-2990

HIV Educator
CATIE 1-800-263-1638

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
www.aidslaw.ca

eHealth Disclosure Directives
1-800-663-7100

(tool that gives you the right to choose who can access information within your electronic health record)

Advocacy, education, support
Positive Living North
1-888-438-2437
www.positivelivingnorth.ca

Positive Living BC
1- 800-994-2437
www.positivelivingbc.org

HIV Treatment and Support Services
careregistry.ca

HIV/HCV Specialized Support Team
1-888-645-6495

To get tested:

Ask a doctor for an HIV test Laboratory Form, then take to a Laboratory Location

1. northernhealth.ca/YourHealth/HospitalServices/LaboratoryServices/ContactUs.aspx
2. locations.lifelabs.com
- Dawson Creek, Prince George, Quesnel, Terrace

“Find a Clinic” to Get Tested for HIV in BC

HIV101.ca

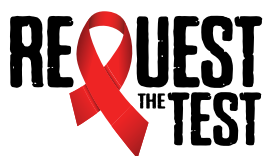
- Resources, testing locations

smartsexresource.com

- Enter your community or postal code to find a clinic near you
- Sign up for text or email reminders for testing and vaccinations
- “Ask Us” Online BCCDC Nurse

STOP HIV/AIDS

Expand HIV testing, treatment and support services in British Columbia. For more information, please visit www.stophivaid.ca and www.HIV101.ca



HIV101.ca

Request the test today!