

HIV Does Not Discriminate. Neither Do We.

Health Canada estimates that 1 in 4 people living with HIV in Canada do not know their status, and therefore cannot seek treatment or prevent passing HIV to others. Access to HIV testing provides an opportunity for people to learn HIV prevention strategies for themselves and their partners.

We care about more than just your oral health. We believe that we can make a difference in this epidemic by offering information and testing so that patients can know their status and seek treatment, helping them to live long and healthy lives.




Christina has been living with HIV for 27 years and is the proud new mother of a HIV negative baby boy

What Type of Test Are We Offering?

We offer a *confidential*, Rapid HIV Test. It is done in a similar way to how diabetics monitor their blood sugar. A drop of blood is taken from your fingertip and tested for HIV antibodies. The test results are available within 60 seconds.

The Rapid Test is not testing for the virus—it only tests for the antibodies your body produces to fight HIV. HIV antibodies may not appear for up to 3 months after infection with the virus. A very recent infection may not produce enough antibodies to be detected by this test.



Lolisa has been living with HIV for 25 years and is the proud mother of a HIV negative baby boy

What Do The Results Mean?

What happens if the test result is negative?

A negative test result is accurate, providing you were not infected in the last 3 months. No further follow up is needed.

What happens if the test result is not negative?

An invalid or preliminary positive result means you will have to do a follow up blood test. You will receive a lab test form to bring to your local lab, as well as the option of having a public health nurse contact you, who will provide you with information and support.

Living With HIV Today Has Changed

If you do have HIV, getting tested and knowing your status early is important. Although HIV has no vaccine or cure, it is highly treatable.

Knowing your HIV status is a key step in keeping you and your partners healthy. There is support and medication available to help people with HIV live long and healthy lives.

If your result is positive, you may have questions about what living with HIV will mean for you. There is help and support available, see the back of this brochure for contact information.

How often should you get tested?

Vancouver Coastal Health recommends that everyone who is sexually active gets tested annually, even if they are in a monogamous relationship.



If you do not feel comfortable getting an HIV test today, or it is not available, call the **STOP HIV Outreach Team: 604.838.1331**

www.stophiv aids.ca

They will be able to provide testing as well as referrals should you be HIV positive and need support.

For more information about HIV, referrals, and supports contact **AIDS Vancouver:**

Helpline: **604.696.4666**

www.aidsvancouver.org

To hear Todd's, Christina's and Lolisa's stories and learn more about **Does HIV Look Like Me? International**, please visit:

www.doeshivlooklikeme.org

1.800.601.0191

DOES HIV LOOK LIKE ME?
INTERNATIONAL

Vancouver
CoastalHealth
Promoting wellness. Ensuring care.

Know the Myths and Misconceptions About HIV

HIV **cannot** pass from one person to another by:

- Coughing or sneezing
- Using public toilets, swimming pools, or showers
- Shaking hands, hugging, touching or kissing
- Sweat lodges
- Saunas
- Handling or sharing food or dishes
- Pets, mosquitoes, fleas, bed bugs, or other biting insects
- Donating or receiving blood in Canada



SCAN THIS CODE
TO TAKE THE QUIZ ONLINE

Have you...

- Had vaginal or anal intercourse without using a condom (even if in a monogamous relationship)?
- Been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection and not tested for HIV since?
- Shared needles, syringes or injecting equipment?
- Had medical procedures in a foreign country?
- Had blood to blood contact such as blood transfusions in countries where the donated blood is not tested?

If you answered **YES** to *any* of these questions, you may have put yourself at risk of HIV transmission. However, this doesn't mean that HIV infection is inevitable. It can be scary to get tested, but it's definitely worth it. Knowing your status early can help you live a longer and healthier life, and give you the knowledge you need to protect your partners.

THE
QUIZ



WE CARE ABOUT
MORE THAN JUST
YOUR ORAL HEALTH

SHOULD YOU GET
TESTED FOR HIV?
← TAKE THE QUIZ



Todd has been living with HIV for 10 years
and is a HIV leader and activist

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