

HIV Blood Test Information

What is HIV?

HIV is a virus that weakens the immune system (your body's defense against illness). Without treatment, HIV can make your immune system too weak to fight infections – which can lead to AIDS.

HIV can be found in the blood, semen (including pre-cum), vaginal fluids, rectal fluids, and breast milk. It can be passed from someone with transmissible HIV to another person without HIV.

Why should I get tested?

Benefits of getting tested	Risks of getting tested
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out if you have HIV or not so you won't be worried about it • Protect others from HIV transmission • Early treatment and support for better long-term health if you test positive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible negative reaction from family, friends, employers, or partners • Stress of waiting for test results • Stress of coping with HIV as a long-term condition

What options do I have for HIV blood testing?

The HIV blood test offered through GetaKit.ca uses your name and health card number. This means that if you were to test positive for HIV, the results will be reported to your local public health unit. They will contact you about follow-up HIV care and help your partner(s) access testing and care.

You can access HIV blood testing *anonymously* in other healthcare settings and still be linked to HIV care if you were to test positive. For more information about anonymous testing and reporting to public health authorities in Ontario, you can contact the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO) at Halco.org or 416-370-7790 or 1-888-705-8889 (toll-free).

What about disclosure?

If your HIV blood test is positive, it is important to understand your rights and how the law impacts you before you disclose your HIV status. Legally, you do not have to tell most people you are HIV-positive, but it can be considered a crime not to tell a sexual partner.

To better understand the law, contact the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO) at Halco.org or 416-370-7790 or 1-888-705-8889 (toll-free).

It is your choice whether you have HIV blood testing using your name and health card.

Please make your selection in the checkout cart.