

The following is an overview of the GetaKit Research Consent form. It is NOT the consent form, but is meant to give you an idea of what the form covers.

We are asking if you would like to become a participant in the GetaKit study. GetaKit is a nurse-led research study that wants to learn if mail-out HIV self-testing is an effective way to help people access HIV testing, and eventually testing for other sexual transmitted infections, too. The research team is based at the University of Ottawa, and the study is funded by the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN).

To participate in the GetaKit study you will need to create a GetaKit account using your name, address and contact information. The team needs your contact information because we may need to notify you if something is wrong with your HIV self-test kit, or to help you connect with other services. After creating your account you will be asked to complete an online self-assessment questionnaire. This questionnaire will ask questions about who you are, how you identify, and sexual practices, and substance use. Some of these questions might be uncomfortable, but we are asking to see how at-risk you are of getting HIV. Some questions may not apply to you. If you complete these steps and go forward with ordering an HIV self-test kit, we will send you two reminders to submit your result by logging into your GetaKit account. You can choose 'prefer not to report' if you would rather not tell the research team.

Consenting to the study means that the research team might use your information to answer questions like (1) Who is ordering HIV self-tests? (2) Are people submitting their results? (3) Are people who are submitting their results being linked to services? (4) Are people finding the process of ordering a test easy or difficult? (5) Are people finding using the test easy or difficult?

All information used to answer these questions will be *summaries*. That means that we will not include your unique information in any evaluation reports. Here's an example of the difference:

1. Kelly, Asif, Peter and Aisha prefer chocolate ice cream over vanilla.
2. 4 participants prefer chocolate ice cream over vanilla.

GetaKit uses a 'status neutral' approach to HIV testing. This means that, not only will someone contact you if you have a positive result to check-in, but we may also contact you to discuss Pre-Exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). You should know that all positive results on the HIV self-test should be followed-up by bloodwork to confirm that it is positive. The team is available to help through all the steps.

Your participation in the GetaKit study is entirely voluntary. If you decide that you no longer want to be part of the GetaKit study, you can let us know at any time (getakit@uottawa.ca). This will mean that we will not use your information as part of the evaluation. You should be aware that your account on GetaKit contains personal health information and is the equivalent to a health medical record. We are required by law to retain this information for 10 years. This does not mean, however, that anyone can request access to it without your knowledge and consent.

Lastly, please remember that this is a self-test. No one should force you to take one, and you should not use it for someone who isn't registered for GetaKit themselves. Willingness to test is an important part of HIV testing.