

GetaKit is a nurse-led research study to determine if HIV self-testing is an effective way to help people access HIV testing. The research team is based at the University of Ottawa, and the study is funded by the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN).

To participate, we are asking you to answer a few questions to determine if HIV self-testing is right for you. For example, if you already know you are HIV-positive, this test will not give you new information. Some of these questions might be uncomfortable, and some questions may not apply to you.

Participating in this study means that you give permission to the research team to upload the information on this form to a secure database. The data collected are only accessible to the research team, and will be used to answer questions like, (1) Are we reaching the people who need HIV self-tests? (2) Are people submitting their results? (3) Are people who are submitting their results being linked to services? This will provide valuable information about distribution and support systems for people testing for HIV. We will aggregate these data and present and publish them in ways that do not identify you.

As part of GetaKit, you are under no obligation to report your test results. But if you do report your result, we will link you to programs, such as HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or other HIV prevention services, or to immediate clinical care if you receive a preliminary positive result. A positive HIV self-test requires confirmatory blood test (serology). Bloodwork testing can be either ‘nominal’ or ‘anonymous’. Nominal testing means you are tested using your name. To get a nominal test, you might need health insurance, like an Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) card or number. Anonymous testing means you are tested without using your name. You do not need health insurance or a health card to get an anonymous test.

If the blood test is positive, you will receive information about HIV transmission and HIV care, as well as a referral for HIV treatment. With HIV treatment, a person’s health status and life expectancy are the same as people who are HIV-negative. Also, treatment can make an HIV-positive person unable to transmit HIV to others. You are under no obligation to accept this referral, and if you decline it, you may always return for a referral in the future.

It is your choice to be tested for HIV or not. This means that no one can force you to take an HIV test, and you should not force someone else to take the test. Consent and willingness to test is a fundamental feature of HIV testing.

If you wish to report your result, please go to [GetaKit.ca](https://getakit.ca) or scan the QR code on your self-test.

If you wish to receive information about when to retest, please provide your email address.

It is important to know your HIV status to take care of your health, but it is also important for you to know about the laws that might impact people living with HIV. Legally, you do not have to tell most people that you are living with HIV, 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](https://www.hivandaidslaw.ca/). If you test positive for HIV, it is important for you to understand your rights and how the law impacts you before you disclose your status.

Your participation in the GetaKit study is entirely voluntary. If you have any questions, please write us at [GetaKit@uOttawa.ca](mailto:GetaKit@uOttawa.ca) or call 613-562-5800 ext 8595. You can also contact the Principal Investigator, Patrick O’Byrne, at [Patrick.OByrne@uOttawa.ca](mailto:Patrick.OByrne@uOttawa.ca).