

Do I Have HIV?

It takes strength and courage to go for a blood test to find out if you have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

HIV Testing

Why Go for Testing?

- ▶ If you have had sex without a condom or shared a needle you are at risk for getting HIV.
- ▶ To find out if you have HIV.
- ▶ To live longer and healthier with HIV by learning how to take care of yourself.
- ▶ To protect partners.
- ▶ If you are pregnant you can reduce the chance of passing the virus on to the baby.

What is the Test About?

Learning about HIV/AIDS.
It's your choice to take a test.
Your blood is drawn and sent to a lab. Results take 2-3 weeks.
You may need a second blood test in 3 months.
All tests and results are confidential

Where Do I Go For HIV Testing?

A Doctor or Health Unit or Clinic: You can either give your name or just your initials for the test.

STI/HIV Prevention and Control
Telephone: 604-660-6161
Information line: 604-872-6652
Toll free: 1-800-661-4337

What Do the Results Mean?

The blood test looks for antibodies (cells that show an infection of HIV).

HIV Positive means the blood test found HIV antibodies and HIV is present.

HIV Negative means the blood test did not find any antibodies so:

- ▶ You do not have HIV or
- ▶ It is too early to test, wait 3 months and test again

HIV is a reportable disease in B.C. If you test positive, your result will be reported to local public health. They will help with the process of notifying your partners.



BC Centre for Disease Control
AN AGENCY OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY