

People just like you get tested every day.

Anyone could get infected with HIV. A person with HIV can look and feel healthy and still infect others. Anyone who ever had sex without a condom might have been exposed to HIV. The same is true of anyone who ever injected drugs. Often, a person with HIV doesn't appear to be sick.

HIV affects men and women of all ages in all types of communities--even married people or those in long-term relationships.

We can't know everything about our partners. Some people don't know they have HIV. Others think they were tested when they really weren't. And partners don't always tell everything. They may have had sex with other people, or injected drugs. For these reasons, it's best for everyone to have an HIV test. Ask your partner to get tested, too.



Everyone benefits from HIV testing. No matter what, you're better off knowing if you have HIV or not. If you find out you don't have HIV, you won't have to wonder if you ever got infected in the past. And you can make sure you don't get HIV in the future.

Testing is an important step toward staying healthy.

Now an HIV test is routine too. Like high blood pressure, HIV might not make you feel sick at first. So you might not know you have it. But if you wait too long for treatment, things could get much worse. HIV causes AIDS, which could make you more likely to get serious infections and some cancers.

Knowing if you have HIV is very important if you're planning a family. A woman with HIV can pass it on to her baby during pregnancy, labor, or breastfeeding. Treatment could keep this from happening. Both women and men should be tested for their own sake, and for the sake of their future children.

Most people test "negative" for HIV. You probably will too. This means that you don't have HIV. But if your test results are "positive", early HIV treatment could help you live a longer, healthier life.

If your HIV test result is positive, doctors can help you. Even if you don't feel sick, you can get regular checkups and medicine to help you live a longer, healthier life without developing AIDS. And you can take care not to pass HIV to your partner, spouse, or baby.



It may take up to three months for HIV antibodies (made by your body to fight the virus) to show up in a test. If you get tested within three months after possible exposure, you could have HIV, but it may not show. During this time period, which varies from person to person, you can still pass HIV on to others. If you think you have been infected with HIV, talk to your doctor or nurse about getting an HIV test, the possible need for follow-up testing, and how to prevent giving HIV to others.

Knowing your HIV status early can make all the difference. Ask about routine health tests today...and have an HIV test.

Remember, doctors and nurses who care for you want you to stay healthy. Everyone should be tested for HIV at least once. People who are at high risk for HIV should be tested at least once per year. Anyone who is initiating a new relationship or who receives a recommendation from their doctor should be tested again for HIV. So don't be afraid to ask questions, and please be honest with your doctor or nurse.

What to Expect at Your HIV Test Appointment

- ✓ Confidential testing in a private room
- ✓ Your client rights will be reviewed
- ✓ The HIV testing procedure will be reviewed
- ✓ You will have an opportunity to ask about the HIV test, test results, HIV infection, and safe sex practices
- ✓ You do not have to sign your name anywhere—all consent can be given verbally
- ✓ A quick mouth swab will collect the needed sample
- ✓ The HIV results are received within 2 weeks.



Call
1-800-432-4121 to
see if you are eligible
to receive an
HIV Test in our
Reproductive Health
or Child and
Adolescent Health
Program.



*Serving Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and
Otsego counties*

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Know for Sure.
Get Tested.



FREE HIV Testing
is available for clients in the
Reproductive Health Program
and the
Child and Adolescent Health Program