

HIV Testing

About HIV

HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, can be spread through unprotected vaginal, anal, or oral sex, sharing needles, or through childbirth or breastfeeding.

Treatment is available to manage HIV and minimize the risk of developing AIDS. These antiretroviral medicines are very effective and have few or no side effects.

Partners can keep each other safe by knowing their HIV status, taking HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), not sharing needles, and practicing safer sex to protect against HIV, hepatitis C, and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Additionally, HIV-positive individuals can help protect partners by taking HIV treatment.

About HIV testing

HIV testing is a routine part of health care, but you have the right to decline an HIV test.

- By law, health care providers must offer an HIV test to all patients age 13 or older receiving primary care.
- HIV testing is voluntary, and you may decline being tested.
- HIV test results are confidential.
- Anonymous HIV testing is available at some public testing sites (see page 2).
- You may withdraw your consent to be tested at any time – either verbally or in writing.
- It is illegal to discriminate against anyone because of their HIV status.

If you want to get tested

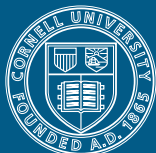
Getting tested at Cornell Health

HIV blood testing is available to students at Cornell Health for no charge. Please talk with your healthcare provider during a medical or sexual health appointment, or schedule an appointment for HIV testing by phone or online (health.cornell.edu/appointments).

Cornell

Health

health.cornell.edu



Other testing options

Students may also get tested elsewhere in the community, including:

- Tompkins County Whole Health (TCHW)
tompkinscountyny.gov/health
anonymous testing available
- Planned Parenthood's Ithaca Health Center
plannedparenthood.org
- Southern Tier AIDS Program
stapinc.org

Fees may vary at different locations. Please check the websites above for current fees.

More information about HIV

For comprehensive information about HIV, prevention, testing, and treatment, visit *cdc.gov/hiv*.