

## Why include an HIV test for everyone?

HIV tests may be included in blood work done in the emergency department.

- » It's important to know your HIV status because people with HIV often have no symptoms for many years.
- » Many people diagnosed with HIV in the Interior Health region are diagnosed in the late stages of the disease.
- » If you are HIV positive, your health may be affected and the virus can spread to other people.
- » Early treatment can control the virus and allow your immune system to rebuild itself.

An HIV blood test is simple. It can be done with all your other blood tests in the hospital.



If more people know their HIV status and receive early treatment, the spread of the disease in our communities can be halted.

Dr. Trevor Corneil, Chief Medical Health Officer and physician lead for STOP HIV in Interior Health

## Don't want a test?

Don't feel comfortable getting an HIV test in the hospital?

Health outreach nurses also provide discreet, confidential, and non-judgmental HIV testing. Please advise a nurse or doctor in the emergency department of your wishes.

Call **1.866.778.7736**  
to arrange a test today.

Find out more about HIV,  
HIV testing, and resources at:

**MyHealthisSexy.com**



**Interior Health**  
*Every person matters*



**An HIV test may be included  
in bloodwork done in the  
Emergency Department.**

**HIV does not discriminate. Neither do we.**

## What you need to know

### The Virus

- » Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a chronic illness that can be treated with medication.
- » HIV attacks the immune system, the part of your body that fights infection, and can lead to Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) if left untreated.
- » HIV can spread via unprotected sex (vaginal or anal) or by blood contact (such as sharing needles).
- » Advances in treatment mean that people who are HIV positive live long and full lives.
- » Treatment also prevents the virus from being passed to others.

### The Test

- » Unless you decline the HIV test, it may be completed as part of your blood work at the hospital.
- » If you do not want to have the test in the emergency department, please refer to the back of this pamphlet for other confidential testing options.
- » The test is not able to detect very early HIV infection — if you think you may have been exposed to HIV in the last six weeks, tell your health care provider.

## How will I get my results?

### If you are negative for HIV:

In most cases, no follow up will be done and you won't be contacted. If you wish, you can ask your family doctor for the result. If you don't have a family doctor you can call 1.866.778.7736 to get your results.

### If you are positive for HIV:

If your test result comes back while you are in the hospital, your doctor will tell you. You will then be connected to an Interior Health outreach nurse.

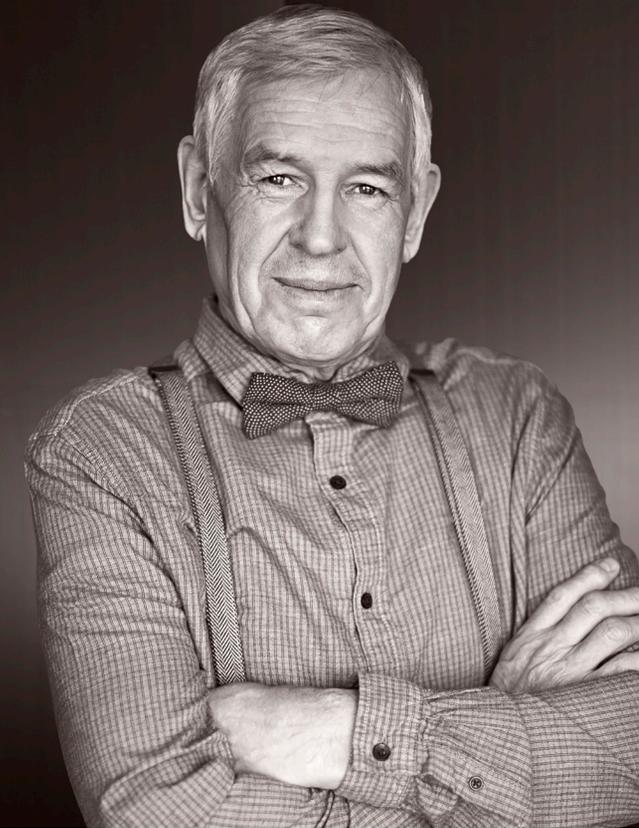
If your test result comes back after you have left the hospital, an Interior Health outreach nurse will call you.

## If you test positive for HIV

HIV is treatable, and while it is a chronic infection with no cure, medications are available that can help you to live a healthy and productive life.

A health outreach nurse will contact you to:

- » Provide support, education, and follow-up health care.
- » Help notify and provide HIV testing to your current or former partners or people you may have unknowingly put at risk. At your request, this can be done without identifying you.



All patient information is considered confidential and protected under the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have any questions or concerns related to this screening process, please discuss them with your Emergency Department nurse or physician.