

HIV TESTING

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a virus that lives and reproduces in the human body. The HIV test looks for the presence of HIV specific antibodies, produced by the immune system in response to the virus. It can take between 2-12 weeks after initial exposure to HIV before the immune system produces enough antibodies to be detected. This time is known as the window period. If an initial test for HIV comes back negative, it may be that the body has not yet produced sufficient antibodies to be detected. For this reason, if a test taken during the window period comes back negative, a second test needs to be taken 12 weeks after the initial exposure. Individuals should be aware that they are potentially infectious during this time and should therefore practice safer behaviours (safer sex and safer injecting).

It is against the law to be test for HIV without your full knowledge and informed consent.

BBV Test Discussion

BBV test discussion (sometimes called pre and post test discussion or counselling) is important preparation for an HIV test, as well as for receiving your test results. If you do decide to have a test then it is important that you receive BBV test discussion both before and after the test.

Test Discussion Includes:

- Providing information and the HIV test
- A discussion around testing outcomes
- Information about the window period
- Obtaining your informed consent, which is needed before an HIV test can be administered.

Post Test Discussion Includes:

- Getting your test results
- Answering your questions
- Referral to appropriate agencies

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When should you have a sexual health check up?

- Every 6-12 months, depending on your sexual activity, as part of your total health care.
- If you suspect or know that you have been at risk of being infected with an STI or HIV through unprotected sex or sharing injecting equipment. If you are aware your partner is, has, or could be, having unsafe sex or sharing injecting equipment.
- If you are starting a new relationship and you would like you and your new partner to be tested.

Where can you get an HIV test?

M Clinic

(for men who have sex with men)
www.mclinic.org.au
(08) 9227 0734

SHQ

www.shq.org.au
Sexual Health Helpline:
(08) 9227 6178 (metro)
1800 198 205 (regional)

Royal Perth Hospital

Sexual Health Clinic
Ainslie House, Murray St, Perth
(08) 9224 2178

Derbarl Yerrigan

(Aboriginal Health Service)
156 Wittnoom Street, East Perth
(08) 9421 3801
Mirrabooka - (08) 9344 0444

Perth Medical Centre

713 Hay Street, Perth
(08) 9481 4342

Fremantle Hospital Sexual Health Clinic

B2 Clinic South Terrace, A Block
Fremantle
(08) 9431 2149

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