



Testing for HIV

as part of an NHS Health Check (ages 40-74) in City & Hackney

From October 2023, if you have a blood test as part of an NHS Health Check, it will now routinely be tested for HIV.

Many people may not know that they have HIV as they do not have any symptoms. The test is routine, the same as your usual blood test.

It is important to diagnose HIV early. Treatment is life-saving and free from the NHS. With medication you can expect to live a long and healthy life and it helps stop passing HIV on to others.

Your results are confidential and only healthcare professionals who help you will know.

If you do not want to be tested, please let a member of staff know.

If you do not need a blood test as part of your NHS Health Check, but do want to be tested for HIV, please let a member of staff know.

Why is my blood being tested for HIV?

All patients aged 40 – 74 who have a blood test as part of their NHS Health Check will have their blood tested for HIV.

National guidelines recommend routine HIV testing in GPs and Emergency Departments in areas like City & Hackney, where rates of HIV are higher than average.

HIV is a blood-borne virus and it is best to diagnose HIV as early as possible before it begins to harm your health. There is medication available for everyone, people with HIV can have happy healthy babies and like all infections, it is better to find out in the early stages, so we can discuss treatment.

Will I get a result if the test is negative?

No, we will only contact you if the test is positive, although sometimes the result is unclear and we would contact you to ask to re-test you.

What happens if my test is positive?

You will be contacted by a doctor or nurse if you have a reactive HIV test result. They will arrange a follow up appointment with the specialist clinic at Homerton Hospital and organise a confirmatory test. Your results are confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside of the treatment team.

What is the treatment for HIV?

Treatment is safe, effective and easy to take. It will help you stay well and also helps to stop the virus from being passed on. With the right treatment you can expect to live long and well. Treatment is free from the NHS.

What if I do not want to know that I have HIV?

We are encouraging everyone who does not already know whether they have HIV to have the test if they have their blood taken as part of their NHS Health Check. Knowing and getting treatment can save your life. If you don't want to be tested, please let a member of staff know.

What if I have further questions or I am worried?

If you are concerned about HIV, please contact your local sexual health clinic for advice, the contact details are here:

www.homerton.nhs.uk/sexual-health

If I test positive, who will be able to see my positive result?

Your test results, like all NHS test results, are confidential.

This means that only NHS healthcare workers who are involved in your care will be able to access your test result.

What if my contact details change?

It is important that your GP surgery has your correct address and telephone number so that you can be contacted about your test if needed.

You can make sure that your contact details are correct by checking with our reception staff.



Where can I find further information about HIV

NHS (HIV and aids page)

www.nhs.uk/conditions/hiv-and-aids

Do it London

www.doitlondon.org

National Aids Trust

www.nat.org.uk

Terrence Higgins Trust

www.tht.org.uk

Local support

Positive East

www.positiveeast.org.uk

Body & Soul

bodyandsoulcharity.org

Visit the Fast Track Cities London website for more information about testing



www.fasttrackcities.london

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