

# ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING TESTED

FOR...

**HIV** (human immunodeficiency virus)

**HCV** (hepatitis C)

**STIs** (sexually transmitted infections)



## What is HIV?

HIV is a virus that attacks a person's immune system.

Untreated HIV weakens a person's immune system by destroying cells that fight off infections. Complications from untreated HIV can cause death.

## What is HCV?

HCV is a virus that attacks the liver. The liver helps the body with digestion, removing toxins the body, and blood clotting.

Untreated HCV infection can lead to cirrhosis (liver scarring), liver cancer, and even death.

## What Are STIs?

STIs are infections that spread from one person to another during vaginal, anal, or oral sex.

Different STIs attack different parts of the body. They can cause serious and even life threatening illness.

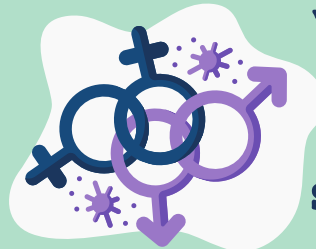
## Who Should Be Tested For HIV, STIs, and HCV?

**GETTING TESTED IS THE  
FIRST AND MOST  
IMPORTANT STEP**



**All adults should be tested  
for HIV and HCV at least  
once in their life.**

*Depending on behaviors some adults  
should be tested more routinely.*



**You should get  
tested after  
each new  
sexual partner.**



**If you have ever  
shared items to use  
drugs you should  
get tested for HIV  
and HCV.**

## HIV Treatment

HIV treatment is so effective that it can reduce the amount of HIV virus in a person's body to an undetectable level. Someone with an undetectable level of HIV in their body cannot pass HIV on to their partner(s).

aka

**U = U**

## HCV Treatment

HCV treatment is very effective and can be as simple as taking a daily medication for 8-12 weeks.

Most people notice few to no side effects from treatment medications.

Over 95% of people treated for HCV are cured!

## STI Treatment

Bacterial STIs like chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis can be treated and cured with antibiotics.

Viral STIs can be treated to lessen symptoms, but cannot be cured. A doctor can help you manage a viral STI and stay healthy!

**ALL YOU NEED  
TO KNOW ABOUT  
PREVENTING**

# HIV, STIs, and HCV

**There are many ways to protect yourself from HIV, STIs, and HCV. Find what works for you!**



## Condoms for HIV, STIs, and HCV Prevention

Using internal condoms, external condoms, and/or oral dams every time you have sex can significantly reduce your chances of getting HIV, STIs, and HCV from sex.

## PrEP for HIV Prevention

PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, is medicine people can take to prevent getting HIV from sex (99% effective) or injection drug use (74% effective).



## PEP for HIV Prevention

PEP, or post-exposure prophylaxis is a medication regimen taken within 72 hours after a potential exposure to HIV to prevent acquiring HIV. The sooner its taken, the more effective it is.



## SSPs for HIV, STI, and HCV Prevention

SSPs, or syringe services programs, provide safer supplies to people impacted by drug use to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases. They often offer prevention and treatment services too!



## Doxy PEP for STI Prevention

Doxy PEP, or doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis involves taking doxycycline (a medication) within 72 hours after condomless sex to prevent the transmission of syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea.



## Where Can I Get Services?

Talk to your healthcare provider about testing and treatment!

Local health departments also offer free and confidential HIV, STI, and HCV testing. All health departments offer STI treatment and many offer HCV and HIV treatment too!

**Scan or click to locate a health department near you!**

**TALK. TEST.  
TREAT.**

