



Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Why Get Tested?

The only way to know for sure whether you have HIV is to get tested. Knowing your HIV status gives you powerful information to help take steps to stay healthy.



Each HIV test has a different window period. The **window period** is the time between when a person gets HIV and when a test can **accurately**

Types of HIV tests

There are **three types of tests** used to diagnose HIV infection:

- **Antibody tests** check for **HIV antibodies** in blood or oral fluid. HIV antibodies are disease-fighting proteins that the body produces in response to HIV infection. Most **rapid tests** and **home-use tests** are antibody tests.
- **Antigen/antibody tests** can detect both **HIV antibodies** and **antigens** (a part of the virus) in blood.
- **Nucleic Acid Tests (NATs)** look for **HIV** in the blood. **NATs** are **very expensive** and not routinely used for HIV screening unless the person had a high-risk exposure or shows early symptoms of



PREVIEW

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an HIV test. When you take the test, you receive a number. To get your HIV test results, you give the number instead of your name.

Where can I get tested for HIV?

- *Your healthcare provider*
- *Hospitals, medical clinics and community health centers*
- *Use the CDC testing locator (gettested.cdc.gov)*
- *Home testing kits from a pharmacy or online*





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- _____



HIV

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