

Frequently Asked Questions about HIV Testing

Where can I get tested? HIV counseling and testing is available during office hours at the Health Department's Belvidere Medical Building in Room 1132 located in Waukegan at 2400 Belvidere Road. The entrance to the clinic is on Dodge Avenue, just off of Keller Avenue. HIV testing is confidential, free and open to anyone 12 years of age and older, regardless of county of residence. Anonymous HIV testing is also available. HIV testing is done by appointment; however some walk-ins are taken on a limited basis depending on availability. To make an appointment, call 847.377.8450.

What can I expect? When you arrive for an HIV test, go directly to Room 1132 to check in. You will be asked if you would also like to be screened for other Sexually Transmitted Infections including chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. If you are concerned about exposure to HIV we encourage you to be screened for all Sexually Transmitted Infections.

You will meet with an HIV counselor who will discuss with you the facts about HIV transmission, the testing process and what your results may mean to you. Your appointment will last approximately 30 minutes.

Do I have to give blood? Yes, several types of HIV tests are offered through the STI Program but they all include either a blood sample from your finger or your arm.

How accurate is HIV testing? HIV testing is extremely accurate. However if someone was recently infected with HIV, the test may not detect a recent infection. Testing consists of looking for antibodies or antigens to HIV. If a person was infected recently those antibodies or antigens may not be detected on the test. Please contact us if you have more questions about HIV testing.

Can I get a copy of my HIV results? If you receive your HIV as part of general screening for Sexually Transmitted Infections then you may be able to receive a copy of your HIV result as it is a part of your confidential medical record. However, if you only are tested for HIV we cannot provide a copy of your HIV test results. If you would like to share your results with someone you may bring that person to the clinic with you and you can discuss your results with them during your visit.

What should I bring with me? You do not need to bring anything with you to be tested for HIV. Simply call 847.377.8450 to schedule an appointment.