

Sexual Health
Testing Service



Welcome to HIV Ireland

Our HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) testing service is provided in conjunction with the GUIDE Clinic, St. James's Hospital, Dublin.

HIV Ireland
70 Eccles Street,
Dublin 7, D07 A977
(opposite the
Mater Private Hospital)

Tel: 01-8733799
Email: testing@hivireland.ie
www.hivireland.ie



Who is suitable to attend this service?

Anyone over 18 who wishes to have a sexual health screening.



Cost

Our HIV and STI testing service is free.



Confidentiality

Your test results will be confidential.



What happens at the testing service?

- Testing begins at 1:30pm. Doors open at 1:00pm.
- The service works on a first come, first served basis.
- You will be given a number at reception and shown to a waiting area where refreshments and magazines are available while you wait.
- Waiting times can vary.
- Once you register, you will be able to see an approximate waiting time on a screen. If you have a smart phone you can access the waiting time on this, providing you with the option to leave the building and return before your number is called.

What do the tests involve?

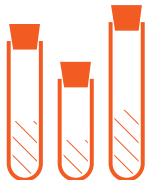
You will be tested for Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C (if indicated).

- The tests include a blood test for HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B (and Hepatitis C if needed).
- The test for Gonorrhoea and Chlamydia is:
 - Females – a self-taken vaginal swab.
 - Males – a urine test (and, if needed, a throat swab and self-taken rectal swab).

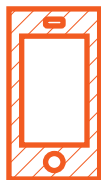
Note: If possible, males should NOT pass urine at least 1-hour before the test.

Test results

- If your tests results are **negative** (clear), you will receive a text message stating this within two weeks. Please note, you will be given the option of not receiving a text message.
- If you have tested **positive** for HIV or another STI, a nurse will contact you (by phone) with your results within two weeks. Please let the nurse know if you think you may not be contactable during this time.
- We do not provide written test results.



Note: If you happen to lose your phone, or change your number within two weeks of testing, please let *HIV Ireland* know by dropping in or by calling us at 01-8733799. We can let the nurses know and, if appropriate, give the nurses your alternative contact number.



HIV and STI treatment

If you receive a positive test result and require follow-up treatment and medication, this will be provided at the GUIDE Clinic in St. James's Hospital, Dublin 8.

HIV and STI treatment (appointments, medication, or possible hospitalisation) is provided for FREE in Ireland by the public health service (including the GUIDE Clinic) regardless of your legal status or whether you are working or not working.



Legal status

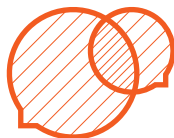
The outcome of an HIV test does not affect a person's legal status in Ireland. An HIV positive test result will not affect the outcome of an application for asylum, refugee status, or Humanitarian Leave To Remain.



Counselling

Counselling is available for free in *HIV Ireland* and it is confidential. You can avail of this service before you test, while you are waiting for a test result, or after you receive your result (whether positive or negative).

If you would like to speak with a counsellor, please ask a member of staff. Talking to a counsellor can help you explore any concerns, anxieties, and feelings with an understanding and supportive person.



The benefits of testing for HIV & STIs

- You can have HIV and STIs without showing any symptoms. The only way to know if you have HIV, or another STI (including hepatitis) is to have a test, particularly if:
 - you are, or have been, sexually active.
 - you have ever injected, or are currently injecting, drugs.



- Most STIs can be cured with medication, but some STIs can only be treated to manage the symptoms. STIs can sometimes cause long term medical complications; if left untreated they can cause infertility in women and men, bladder and kidney infections, and anal or cervical cancer.
- HIV is now considered a chronic illness which can be treated and managed. Testing can allow a person to get the essential care necessary for living a healthy life with HIV. The earlier you know your HIV positive status, the more effective HIV medication can be.
- Getting tested and knowing if you have HIV or another STI allows you to protect your partner(s) as well as yourself.

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to a member of staff or call us on 01-8733799. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

When is testing?

Testing occurs on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. Please call *HIV Ireland* at 01-8733799 or email us at testing@hivireland.ie if you would like to confirm the next testing date. Testing takes place on our premises at:

70 Eccles St, Dublin 7
(opposite the Mater Private Hospital).

FREE CONDOMS are available at *HIV Ireland*.
If you would like some, just ask at reception.



A very special thanks to the HSE Social Inclusion Unit, Gilead, and GlaxoSmithKline for supporting this service.

Further heartfelt thanks to all our friends on Moore Street and Parnell Street and our friends in the GUIDE Clinic in St James's Hospital who helped us devise this booklet.



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