

**Thinking of taking an HIV test? / Camden Primary Care Trust Health
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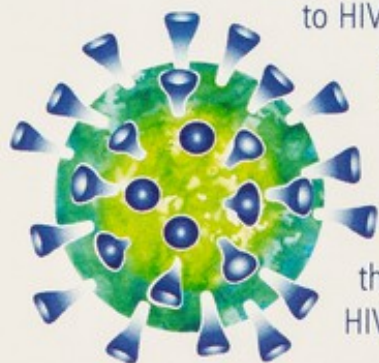
**THINKING OF
TAKING AN
HIV TEST?**

thinking of taking an HIV test?

HIV is the virus which causes AIDS, and the HIV antibody test (HIV test, for short) tests to see if your body's immune system has produced antibodies to fight the virus. If the result is **positive**, that means that you have been infected with HIV.

If you take an HIV test at a sexual health clinic or an HIV testing centre, the result will be **completely confidential**. No one need know the result.

You can get advice about the test from a clinic at any time. But bear in mind, it takes up to **three months** before your body produces antibodies to HIV. So if you have had sex without a condom recently and are worried that you might have been infected, you may have to wait up to three months before it is worth taking the test.



At the clinic, you can talk to a health advisor about the test and why you want to take it. The advisor will talk through the problems you might face if you turn out to be HIV-positive and will help you decide if you want to go ahead.

The MetroMate (www.metromate.co.uk) website has more information about the test and where you can take it. See also the You Choose website at www.youchoose.org.uk. Or you may want to call the National AIDS Helpline on 0800 567 123 (freephone, 24 hours a day) or THT Direct on 0845 1221 200 (Monday to Friday, 11am to 8pm).

For more information, see our free booklet **HIV – A Gay Man's Guide** (free in gay venues).

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