

**Thinking of taking an HIV test? : what if I'm negative? / Camden Primary Care Trust Health Promotion Service Gay Men's Team.**

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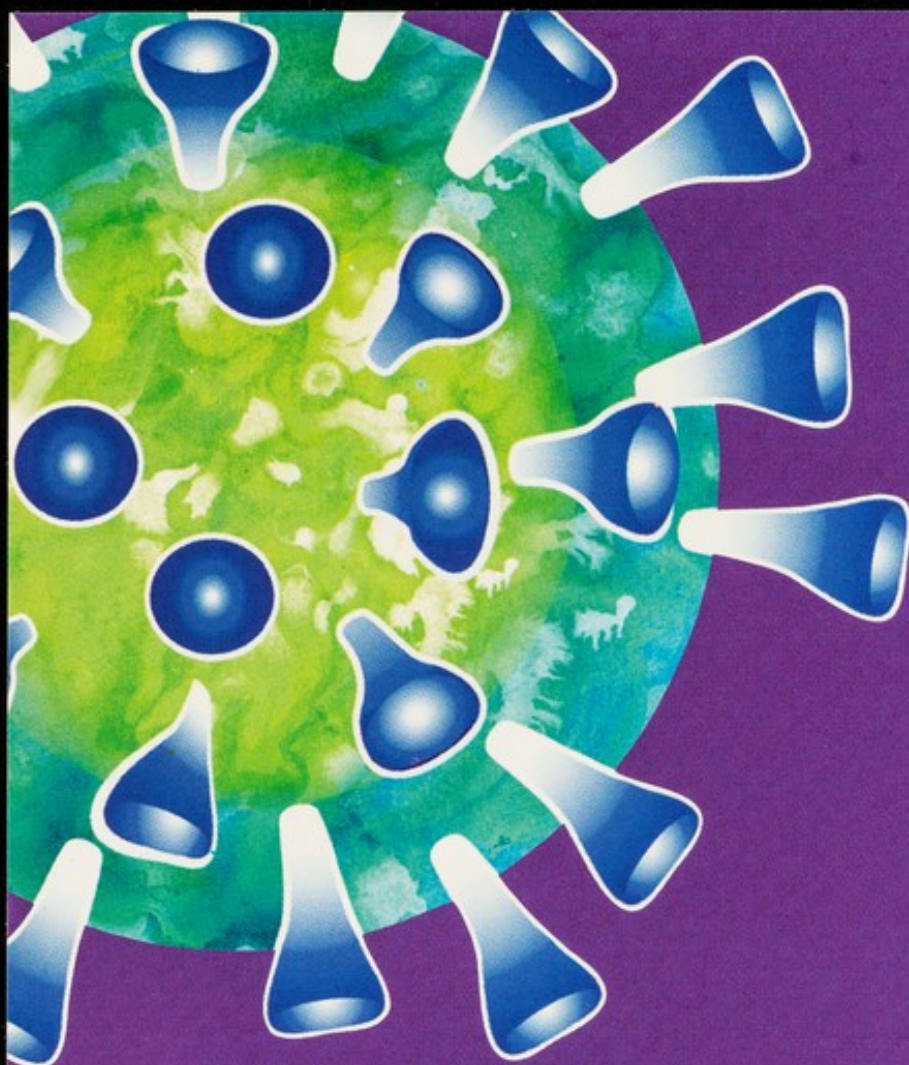
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thinking of taking an HIV test?

**WHAT IF I'M  
NEGATIVE?**



## what if i'm negative?

### Make sure you stay that way...

A negative HIV test result means you have not been infected with HIV.



The HIV test detects the presence of antibodies to the virus in your blood, but it can take your body **up to three months** after being infected before it starts producing HIV antibodies. So if you had unprotected sex in the three months leading up to the test, a negative result may be misleading. Your sexual health clinic will be able to advise you on the best time to take the test and about staying safe in the future.

A negative result does not mean that you are immune to HIV. **One in five** gay men who test negative get infected with the virus within the following three years.

A negative HIV test result does **not** mean that your sexual partners are negative.

### So don't throw those condoms away.

A negative HIV test result will **set your mind at rest** if you are worried that you have been exposed to the virus.

Go to [www.metromate.co.uk](http://www.metromate.co.uk) or [www.freedoms.org.uk](http://www.freedoms.org.uk) for a detailed listing of clinics in London.

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