

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

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thinking of taking an HIV test?

**WHAT IF I'M
POSITIVE?**

what if i'm positive?

A positive HIV test result means that you have been infected with HIV, the virus which can cause AIDS.

But don't despair.

New drugs have given HIV-positive people **new hope**.

In the past five years, the number of people dying from AIDS in the UK has fallen by **83%**. Fewer and fewer HIV-positive people are getting so ill that they develop AIDS.

One in four HIV-positive gay men do not know that they have the virus.

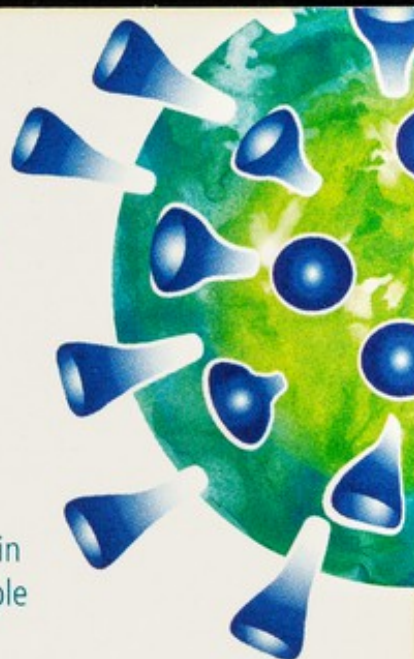
If you have become infected with HIV, it is better to know **sooner** rather than later. **One in six** gay men do not find out that they are HIV-positive until they are so ill that their treatment options are limited.

However, most positive men don't need to start taking medication immediately. Your sexual health clinic will advise you about your best course of action.

If you find out that you are HIV-positive, it does not mean that your current **sexual partners** are positive too.

Don't throw your condoms away. You don't want to give the virus to anyone else and you don't want to get a new variety of the virus, which may not respond to the drugs you are taking.

No one need know if you are positive. If you take the HIV test at a sexual health clinic (for full London listings, see www.metromate.co.uk or www.freedoms.org.uk), the result will be completely confidential.



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