

**AIDS - HIV testing.**

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

## AIDS - HIV TESTING

Testing is carried out locally at the GU (Genito-Urinary) Medical Units at Coventry & Warwickshire Hospital Stoney Stanton Road Coventry (behind the Postgraduate Centre) and at South Warwickshire Hospital Lakin Road Warwick (in the Jephson Centre close to car park A). Similar Units may also be contacted through the switchboards of other major hospitals.

Anyone considering taking a test can telephone the Units on

Coventry (0203) 844163(women) and 844164(men)

Mon to Fri 9.30am-12.00pm and Mon Tues Thurs 1.30pm-5.00pm

Warwick (0926) 495321 ext 4246 (both sexes)

Mon & Wed 1.30pm-4.30pm and Tues & Fri 9.30am-12.30pm

There is also a Unit at Stratford on Avon General Hospital,

(0789) 205831 ext 245 Mon & Wed 9.30am-12.00pm Thurs 12.00pm-4.00pm

When you ask for information on testing you will immediately be put through to a counsellor who will make an appointment to see you. Everyone must talk to a counsellor before taking the test, so that there is an opportunity to ask questions and understand all the implications. Amongst other things, the counsellor should explain how taking the test might possibly affect allied aspects of your life, for instance life insurance. After counselling you may choose not to take the test, or to take time to think it over.

If you decide to take the test you will first be given a card to complete. This asks for your name, address, date of birth, doctor etc. However if you choose, you need only provide your name and date of birth. When your blood sample is sent to the laboratory for testing, it will only be identified by a number, but your name is needed in order to link this number to you when you collect the result of the test. The service is completely confidential, and neither your own doctor nor any other outside agency is ever given information on you or informed of the test result, and the result is never sent by post, but must be collected personally.

Since you must collect the test result personally, and no check is made, there is nothing to stop you providing a false name and date of birth both on the card and when making the first appointment with the counsellor, if this makes you feel more comfortable. However it is important that you make a note for yourself of the name and date of birth you have given, in case you forget it later! Most people find that talking to the counsellor is so reassuring they will not find a false name necessary - and this is something which the counsellor could discuss with you.

The National AIDS Helpline, on 0800 567 123 will also give advice and discuss the issues of having a test. Calls are free, confidential and the helpline is open 24 hours a day. Within the University, confidential help, advice and information may be obtained from the University Counselling Service, Room 227 Arts Building (internal extension 3761) and from the Students' Union full time Welfare Advisors, who may be contacted through Union reception or through Rights and Advice.