

HIV

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus, and is a virus that attacks the immune system. There is no cure for HIV, but there are treatment options to control the infection. When untreated, HIV can lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), which is a severely weakened immune system and can lead to severe infection.

How can I tell if I've been exposed?

The only way to know for sure if you have HIV is to **get tested**. Knowing your HIV status gives you powerful information so you can take steps to keep yourself and your partner(s) healthy.

• If you test positive

- you can take medicine to treat HIV, called antiretroviral therapy (ART)
- if taken as prescribed, it may keep the viral load undetectable, allowing you to live a long and healthy life and will prevent HIV transmission to HIV-negative partners through sex

• If you test negative

- you have the option of taking pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a medicine people at risk for HIV take to prevent getting HIV from sex or injection drug use
- you have the option of taking post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), HIV medicine taken within 72 hours after a possible exposure to prevent the virus from taking hold.

Find Resources

 Living with HIV