

## SHOULD I GET TESTED?

Yes. If you have ever injected drugs and shared your drug use equipment, such as filters, pipes or tubes with others, you should get tested for HIV and Hepatitis C.

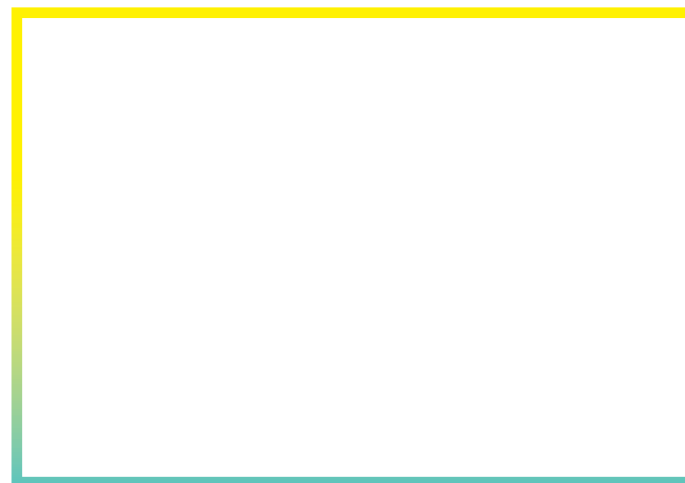
## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GET TESTED?

The only way to know if you have HIV or Hep C is to get tested. If you know you're infected you can take care not to expose your partner or others. Hepatitis C is a leading cause of liver cancer.

**New and improved treatment options for Hepatitis C with less side effects and a cure rate of more than 90%, are available in many European countries.\* There is no cure for HIV, but modern treatments enable most HIV positive people to live a long and healthy life and protect their partners.**

**Even after a negative test result we recommend regular testing, depending on your personal risk-taking.**

## HIV AND HCV RAPID TESTING IS AVAILABLE HERE:



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**HA-REACT**  
JOINT ACTION ON HIV AND CO-INFECTION PREVENTION AND HARM REDUCTION

 Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe

# IT'S GOOD TO KNOW

INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

## HIV? HEP C? GET TESTED!



**IT'S EASY  
IT'S ANONYMOUS  
IT'S FREE**

## IT'S GOOD TO KNOW – GET TESTED!

Hepatitis C and HIV are blood borne viruses and the most common infectious diseases among injecting drug users. They are usually transmitted through the sharing of injecting equipment such as needles, syringes and filters. Hep C and HIV can only be transmitted if the blood of an infected person gets into the blood stream of another person, or via sexual transmission.

 IT'S EASY  
IT'S ANONYMOUS  
IT'S FREE



“Testing, counselling  
and result with one visit –  
thats cool!”

## INFORMED CONSENT

Before you can be tested you must give informed consent to the person who will do the test. Informed means you know what test is going to be done, and what the possible outcomes could be from that test. Consent means you have indicated 'yes' in any one of several ways: written, verbally or by gesture.

## WHICH TEST SHOULD I TAKE?

We recommend rapid tests because they are anonymous, safe and free of charge. They allow screenings outside clinical settings, for example in a low threshold service. The tests are carried out by nurses, social workers or peers. Vein puncture is not necessary, rapid tests work with oral fluid or a drop of blood from a simple finger stick.

Rapid tests allow you to get the test result in one visit and in a very short amount of time. It takes only 20 minutes for the result, and allows you to get pre- and post-test counselling.



“I use a rapid test because vein puncture is unnecessary.”

## THE WINDOW PERIOD

It can take up to 3 months for your body to respond to the HIV or Hep C virus and to produce antibodies. This period is referred to as „the window period“ as it is during this time that a test may not be accurate.

## RAPID TESTS ARE ANTIBODY TESTS

They find out if you have ever been exposed to HIV or Hep C and if your body has produced antibodies to fight the virus.

*A positive test result* means that antibodies were found, and you have been exposed to the HI or Hep C Virus at some time.

Anyone who is antibody positive should have a PCR viral detection test to confirm the result, and to see how much virus is in the body and whether the Hep C Virus is active.