

NJ AIDS/HIV/STD Hotline

**PRESS RELEASE**

June 2024

**National HIV Testing Day**

The Path to Life-Saving Treatment Starts with Testing

This Thursday, June 27, marks National HIV Testing Day (NHTD). This year's theme, "Level up your self-love: check your status" highlights the importance of making your sexual health a priority, including getting tested for HIV.

If you're having sex or using drugs, you're at risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Anyone regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender identity, sexual identity, or sexual orientation is at risk of getting or passing HIV and other STIs. Some [sex practices](#) and behaviors carry a higher risk of exposure to HIV and other STIs than others. If you are at higher risk, it's important to get tested more often; your medical provider may recommend getting tested more frequently than once a year.

Testing is the only way to be sure of HIV infection. It is not only important to know your own HIV status, but also the HIV status of your sex partner(s). There are many testing options and locations available for fast, free, and confidential [HIV testing](#). If you rather test in the privacy of your own space, you can use a [HIV self-test](#). For information on HIV testing options and locations, or to find a HIV PrEP counselor near you, contact the NJ AIDS/HIV/STD hotline: 1-800-624-2377 or [Chat Here](#)

Many people live with HIV for years before being diagnosed and starting treatment. Testing not only helps diagnose people who think they may have been exposed to HIV, it also diagnoses people who didn't know they were living with HIV.

By engaging people in care regardless of their test result, people are able to choose options that will keep them healthy. People who receive a negative test result will use [HIV prevention](#) tools to prevent getting HIV. People who receive a positive test result will quickly start [HIV treatment](#); treatment not only controls the virus so it can't be passed to partners during sex, it also prevents HIV from progressing to a life-threatening disease (AIDS).

**Get Tested. Connect to Services. Stay Healthy.**

**New Jersey AIDS/HIV/STD Hotline**

Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses and pharmacists) provide telephone consultation for people seeking information about HIV/AIDS, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), and other sexually transmitted infections (STI) including hepatitis. Callers receive information tailored to their needs; discussion about prevention, referrals for testing sites and other related services, counseling and testing locations, and information on treatment and adverse reactions to medications. The hotline is administered by the New Jersey Poison Control Center and funded by the New Jersey Department of Health, Division of HIV, STD, and TB services.

**Rutgers New Jersey Medical School**

Founded in 1954, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School is the oldest school of medicine in the state. Today it is part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and graduates approximately 170 physicians a year. In addition to providing the MD degree, the school offers MD/PhD, MD/MPH and MD/MBA degrees through collaborations with other institutions of higher education. Dedicated to excellence in education, research, clinical care and community outreach, the medical school comprises 20 academic departments and works with several healthcare partners, including its principal teaching hospital, University Hospital. Its faculty consists of numerous world-renowned scientists and many of the region's "top doctors." Home to the nation's oldest student-run clinic, New Jersey Medical School hosts more than 50 centers and institutes, including the Public Health Research Institute Center, the Global Tuberculosis Institute and the Neurological Institute of New Jersey. For more information please visit: [njms.rutgers.edu](http://njms.rutgers.edu).

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