



# Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



## World AIDS Day – December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 “Let Communities Lead”

**World AIDS Day** is a day of global action to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS and show support for people living with HIV/AIDS. It is a time to reflect on the progress made to date, and further changes that are needed to eliminate the spread of HIV/AIDS in our community. The theme identified by World Health Organization for World AIDS Day 2023 is: Let Communities Lead, which focuses on how community leadership has positively shaped HIV response. Communities are at the frontline in managing HIV/AIDS, connecting individuals to person-centred public health services and monitoring the implementation of policies.

Ontario has released [new HIV testing guidelines for health care providers \(https://hivtestingontario.ca/\)](https://hivtestingontario.ca/) prioritizing early diagnosis and treatment, as well as identifying those at high risk of acquiring HIV to connect them with prevention services such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

New guidelines indicate that the window period for laboratory-based HIV diagnostic serology testing has been reduced to **six weeks** (previously three months). Early testing is crucial in identifying new cases, providing prompt treatment, and preventing HIV transmission.

All HIV/AIDS cases are **reportable** to Durham Region Health Department. There were 27 cases of HIV reported to DRHD in 2022 compared to 16 cases in 2013.

### Resources

To learn more about HIV statistics in Durham Region, see our latest [HIV and Aids Infographic \(2013-2022\)](#).

For more information about the new HIV testing guidelines, refer to [Ontario Guidelines for Providers Offering HIV Testing \(https://hivtestingontario.ca/\)](https://hivtestingontario.ca/).

If you have any feedback about Fax Abouts or wish to recommend a topic for distribution, please email [Faxabout@durham.ca](mailto:Faxabout@durham.ca).

December 1, 2023

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](http://durham.ca/health)

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

