



# FAX about...



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## National HIV Testing Day

**June 27, 2018** is National HIV Testing Day (NHTD). The purpose of this day is to encourage people to:

- get **tested** for HIV
- become **aware** of their HIV status
- get **linked** to prevention, care, and treatment services
- work to **reduce** the stigma associated with HIV

According to a study from the Canadian Aids Treatment Information Exchange, NHTDs have shown an increase in both the **number of tests performed** and **new HIV-positive test results** during the week of NHTD compared to two control weeks. The study also showed significant increases in the **percentage of HIV tests** in high-risk populations, including men who have sex with men.

For guidance on HIV testing, refer to the Public Health Agency of Canada's document "[Human Immunodeficiency Virus HIV Screening and Testing Guide](#)". The purpose of the document is to support primary care providers in HIV testing. It is recommended that the **consideration** and **discussion** of **HIV testing** be made a component of **periodic routine medical care**. This recommendation is based upon the current body of good quality evidence demonstrating the individual and public health benefits associated with normalising HIV testing.

The Durham Region Health Department Sexual Health Clinics (SHCs) offer point of care (POC) rapid HIV testing and on NHTD (June 27) POC testing will be offered on a **walk-in basis**. Consider referring your clients to our SHCs for rapid POC testing and to start the conversation of HIV with your patients.

Health care provider resources now available to order online at [durham.ca/HCP](http://durham.ca/HCP)

**Durham Region Health Department: 905-668-7711, 1-800-841-2729**

June 21, 2018

If you prefer to receive this information in an electronic format please submit your request to [healthresources@durham.ca](mailto:healthresources@durham.ca)

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