



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



New HIV Testing Guidelines

New HIV testing guidance for Ontario has recently been released. The [Ontario Guidelines for Providers Offering HIV Testing \(2023\)](#) were developed specifically for Ontario to help reach the undiagnosed.

This guidance is designed to make health care providers aware of:

- Recent advances in HIV testing technology (i.e. **reduced window period for definitive diagnosis of HIV from three months to six weeks**)
- Symptoms of both acute and chronic HIV, which are often missed in routine care
- Factors that contribute to HIV risk
- Their important role in assessing risk, actively offering testing to people at risk, and reducing stigma that may keep people from being tested

The guidelines were developed by the Ontario HIV Treatment Network, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario, Ontario College of Family Physicians and Ontario-based clinicians and testing providers. The testing guidelines are available at www.hivtestingontario.ca.

There have been no changes to how HIV testing is ordered. Please continue to use the Public Health Ontario Lab [HIV Serology and HIV PCR Test Requisition](#) (or search HIV on the PHOL main website).

If you have questions about the new guidance, please contact AIDSHEPCPrograms@ontario.ca.

April 4, 2023

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

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

