

Confidential or anonymous- HIV testing, part 5

HIV testing can be either confidential or anonymous.

Confidential testing means that your HIV test results will include your name and other identifying information.

Only people allowed to see your medical records will see your test results. Otherwise, the results are protected by state and federal privacy laws.



With confidential testing, if you test positive for HIV, the test result and your name will be reported to the local and state health department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC.



This helps public health officials get better estimates of the rates of HIV in each state. Health departments remove all personal information, including names and addresses, from HIV test results before sharing the remaining information with the CDC.

Anonymous testing means that nothing ties your test results to you. When you take an anonymous HIV test, you get an ID, such as a number, that allows you to get your test results. Not all HIV test sites offer anonymous testing.

If you have concerns regarding who can have access to your tests results, ask your testing center about their privacy policies.

Be sure to get answers to any questions you have about HIV/AIDS. Your public health department, health care provider, and public library can help.



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