

## What are the advantages of rapid oral fluid HIV testing?

There are distinct advantages of rapid oral fluid testing over conventional testing. They include:

- Less cost for agencies whose budgets are limited.
- Results are delivered quicker, and people found HIV positive are linked to medical care.
- Rapid tests are easier to use.

At all times, confidentiality must be maintained for all patients regardless of HIV serostatus. Proper consent should be obtained before any confidential medical or dental information is released to other medical or dental providers. When you are waiting for your test confirmation result, it is important to engage in safe sexual practices to prevent spreading HIV to others.

**Ask your dentist.  
Make the right decision,  
get tested for HIV.**

## ORAL MANIFESTATIONS OF HIV/AIDS

A guide for dental care patients

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*Don't wait until it hurts.  
Get information now.*

Early identification of HIV infection can lead to earlier diagnosis and prophylaxis or treatment of opportunistic infections, as well as determining the need for antiretroviral (ARV) therapy.

For more information visit:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
PA/MA AETC [www.pamaaetc.org](http://www.pamaaetc.org)  
AETC National Resource Center [www.aids-ed.org](http://www.aids-ed.org)

For more information on HIV/AIDS education and training opportunities visit:

[www.pamaaetc.org](http://www.pamaaetc.org)

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# What you need to know about HIV.

## What is HIV?

HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. HIV lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) if untreated. People with AIDS develop serious infections and cancers.

## What is AIDS?

AIDS means Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. Acquired means that the disease is not genetic but develops from contact with a disease-causing agent, in this case, HIV. Immunodeficiency means that HIV weakens the immune system. Syndrome refers to a group of signs and symptoms that characterize a disease.

## Why should you get tested?

HIV testing is the key. Knowing your HIV status could be one of the most important things you do. CDC recommends HIV testing routinely regardless of risk.

## How do people become infected?

- HIV can be spread through any type of unprotected oral, vaginal, or anal sex if one of the partners has the virus; having multiple sex partners or the presence of other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) can increase the risk of infection during sex.
- Sharing needles, syringes, or other equipment used to inject illicit drugs.
- Infected women can pass the virus to their babies during pregnancy, birth, and breast-feeding.
- Blood transfusions is also possible to become infected with HIV, although testing of blood donors has minimized risk of transmission via transfusion in the United States.

HIV is not spread through contact with sweat, tears, saliva, hugs, or casual kissing from an infected person. People do not become infected with HIV through casual contact with people at work, school, home, or anywhere else. People have not become infected with HIV through insect bites.

HIV doesn't make you sick; infections do.

As HIV weakens your immune system your body becomes at risk for infections that can make you very sick if left untreated.

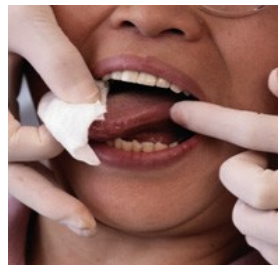
Knowing one's HIV status is an important step in fighting this epidemic.

## What is HIV related oral health?

Many signs and symptoms of HIV infection first appear in the mouth. Bacterial, fungal, and viral infections are just some of the problems that HIV patients encounter. Often, these infections involve the skin or mucous membranes inside the mouth.

Please, call your dentist and make an appointment if you notice any of these signs:

- Red swollen gums with spontaneous bleeding and loss of tissue surrounding the teeth.
- Red, brown, pink or purple lesion on the skin or inside the mouth (oral mucosa or the roof of mouth), suggestive of Kaposi's sarcoma.
- White patches on the tongue, throat, inside of the mouth, or gums could be signs of thrush or hairy oral leukoplakia (an disease seen in AIDS).
- Sores/ulcers, earache, or difficult swallowing.
- Warts, lumps, or feeling of throat obstruction.



## How do you get tested for HIV?

Traditional HIV testing involves a blood test at least 72 hours before a person can return for results. With the advent of the OraQuick Advance HIV1/2 Antibody Test for use with oral fluid, **preliminary HIV results can now be obtained in 20 minutes.**

This is the only oral fluid rapid HIV test approved in the United States by the FDA. A reactive HIV test result on oral fluid is a preliminary positive and [needs to be confirmed by an additional, more specific test to verify whether HIV antibodies are present.](#)



If you are found to be HIV positive, you may benefit from special medical care and the state will link you to care.

A vast majority of dental problems in HIV patients are recognized and left untreated.

Identifying oral health concerns early allows for treatment before those problems progress to other more serious infections and complications.

If you have questions about HIV testing or you would like information on where you can receive a rapid HIV test, please speak with your dentist or your physician, or contact your local health authority for locations.