

## Explaining your situation can be a challenge – but here are some tips

No one can force you to have an HIV test for any reason. If a healthcare provider, or other person, asks to test you for HIV or to draw your blood, tell him or her you are in (or have been in) an HIV vaccine study and you must get all your HIV tests through the HVTN.

Some healthcare providers may not know about the HIV vaccine studies in your area. Or, they may not believe that you are in a study. These tips can help you with your situation.

Get tested – as often as you need it – by going directly to your study site. Explain that being tested outside of an HVTN laboratory could result in an incorrect diagnosis of HIV.

Carry this brochure with you to your healthcare provider's office. It may help explain your situation.

Give the provider your study coordinator's contact information and ask that the provider call him or her directly.

If you have to, simply say "no" to the HIV test, and then ask the study site or HVTN to help. We would be happy to work with you to try to resolve your personal situation.

The HIV Vaccine Trials Network is an academically based research organization of scientists committed to eliminating the spread of HIV in the world by finding a safe and effective vaccine. The Network is supported through a cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a component of the U.S. National Institutes of Health. To learn more about the HVTN, please visit [www.hvtn.org](http://www.hvtn.org).



HIV VACCINE  
TRIALS NETWORK

## GETTING THE RIGHT TEST FOR HIV

What HIV vaccine study participants and former participants need to know

## Getting the right test for HIV

Antibodies are the body's natural response to either an infection or a vaccine. If you get an HIV vaccine, your body may make antibodies to HIV. Standard HIV tests search for HIV antibodies as a sign of infection. Because of this, your HIV test results could come back positive even if you are not infected with HIV. This is called a VISP (Vaccine-Induced Seropositive) test result. You may also see this called Vaccine-Induced Seroreactive. Standard HIV tests that look for antibodies are quick, reliable and affordable. Other tests look for the virus itself, but these are expensive and not commonly used for an initial HIV test.

HIV vaccine study participants need to get the right test for HIV, the one that looks for virus rather than antibodies.



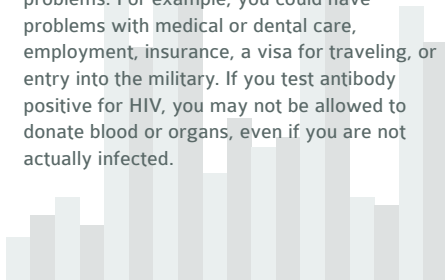
## The HVTN can give you the right test for HIV

Your study site can provide the test for you while you are in the study. The study site will also tell you how to get testing once your study ends. The testing is free.

Getting the right test will prevent an incorrect diagnosis of HIV.

## Why it's important to get the right test

If someone believes you are infected with HIV, you could face discrimination or other problems. For example, you could have problems with medical or dental care, employment, insurance, a visa for traveling, or entry into the military. If you test antibody positive for HIV, you may not be allowed to donate blood or organs, even if you are not actually infected.



If someone requires you to get an HIV test, tell your study site right away. The HVTN can provide the required HIV test and results to those who need them, or work with the group requiring the test to ensure they provide the right test.

**"What happens if I move far away from the study site where I participated in an HIV vaccine study?"**

Your study site can direct you to the appropriate testing service. Notify them if you are about to move away so that they can arrange testing for you in your new location.



## WE CAN HELP

For more information about getting the right test for HIV, contact your HVTN study site.

[Site Name]  
[Site Address]  
[Site Phone #]  
[Site url]