HIV Testing

What is HIV?

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), is a sexually transmitted infection that attacks the immune system, weakening it to the point where it is unable to protect you from illness. HIV often shows no symptoms so it can spread without the infected person realizing they are carriers.

Why should I be concerned about HIV?

If left untreated, HIV can develop into AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome). This occurs when your immune system has been badly damaged by HIV. Those with AIDS are at higher risk for hospitalization due to complications caused by other infections such as the common cold, flu, etc. because your immune system does not have the ability to fight off those viruses.

Why should I get tested?

Testing is the only way to know if you have HIV. Routine testing, in addition to using other prevention measures like PrEP and condoms, is the best defense in slowing the spread of HIV within our communities. The CDC reports that about 1 in 5 people are unaware of their HIV status, which means they could be spreading the infection without even knowing it.

How do I get tested?

HIV testing is simple and easy and there are multiple options to choose from. The Blue Ridge Health District offers free rapid HIV testing by appointments, free In-Home HIV test kits available by pick up or mail, and free conventional blood draws at our Test & Go clinics. For more information on testing call 434-989-3292

For more information: www.cdc.gov/hiv/testing

GET TESTED FOR HIV

ALBEMARLE | GREENE | NELSON | FLUVANNA | LOUISA | CHARLOTTESVILLE
BRHD
Blue Ridge Health District

6/22

Health Whys
A public health message from
BlueRidgeHD.org

Follow us on Facebook

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
To protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia.