



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

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May 21, 2026

Hello,

We are writing to share information about HIV testing because of an amendment to the [Reporting Information Affecting Public Health Regulation](#) (the Regulation) under the [Public Health Act](#).

We are hoping you can help disseminate information about the different types of HIV testing options available in BC including options that offer an extra layer of privacy and confidentiality. BCCDC is happy to work with you to support any communication needed; please reach out to heather.amos@bccdc.ca and julie.holt@bccdc.ca.

Information about the changes

Beginning May 15, 2026, the option to remove an individual's name and identifiers when a positive HIV result is reported to Public Health (i.e. non-nominal reporting) is no longer available. Removal of this option from the Public Health Regulation was recommended given advances in digital health information systems, as well as alternative approaches to protect identity at the point of testing. This change aligns HIV reporting in BC with the approach taken in most other Canadian provinces and territories.

Options such as non-nominal HIV testing (e.g. use of a pseudonym, initials) remain available to support an individual's privacy and confidentiality. The [Guidelines for Testing, Follow-Up and Prevention of HIV](#) in the Communicable Disease Manual have been updated to reflect the amendment.

In light of this change, we are sharing information on how people may choose to test without identifiers through the testing process, known as non-nominal testing. With this option, individuals can test with a pseudonym (fake name), or initials at certain clinics.

HIV testing options

- In BC, you can test for HIV without using your real name (e.g. using a fake name or initials and limited identifiers) at some non-profit or publicly funded health clinics; this is known as non-nominal testing.
- Getting tested and treated using a fake name isn't available at all clinics because your personal information is needed for services to be covered by government or private insurance.
- Here are some options for HIV testing that offer privacy and confidentiality:
 - Use the [clinic finder on SmartSexResource.com](#) to find a clinic offering the service 'Use a fake name for testing'. This option is only available at some clinics or laboratories because in many cases your personal information is needed for services to be covered by government or private insurance.
 - [GetCheckedOnline](#) is an online service that allows you to get tested for sexually transmitted and bloodborne infections without seeing a health care provider. Check to see if it is available in your community.
 - You may also be able to self-test at home with a kit purchased online. HIV self-testing provides results in under 20 minutes and allows people to test where they are most comfortable without the assistance of a health care provider.
- Remember, even if you use your real name and all personal identifiers to test, your results and health records are kept confidential.

Sincerely,



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