

# NATIONAL HIV TESTING WEEK

16-22 NOVEMBER 2019



## Get ready for National HIV Testing Week

16th – 22nd of November 2019

The PaSH (Passionate about Sexual Health) partnership is a collaboration between BHA for Equality, George House Trust and LGBT Foundation. PaSH provide a sexual health improvement programme for populations most-at-risk of HIV and support the health and wellbeing of people living with HIV.

**PaSH will be increasing HIV testing opportunities by offering Rapid HIV testing across the region in different community venues across Greater Manchester. We have attached a schedule of testing opportunities for this exciting week and a social media pack for you to promote and share. It would be great if you could share this campaign and our testing opportunities across your social media platforms.**

National HIV Testing Week is a campaign to promote regular HIV testing among the most-affected population groups in England. This helps reduce the number of people living with undiagnosed HIV and those diagnosed late.

HIV particularly affects men who have sex with men and people from black African communities.

This year, the national campaign will feature celebrities and influencers promoting **'Give HIV the finger: a finger-prick test is all it takes'**.

We are inviting you to participate in our local campaign events and promotion of testing opportunities, and HIV testing and prevention services across Greater Manchester.



## Key messages for National HIV Testing Week 2019

- » Testing for HIV is easy, all it takes is a finger-prick test.
- » People can live with HIV for a long time without any symptoms, testing is the only way to know your HIV status.
- » Anyone diagnosed with HIV in the UK can access free treatment and support.
- » If you have HIV, finding out means you can start treatment, stay healthy and avoid passing the virus onto anyone else.
- » There are more ways than ever to test – in sexual health service, your GP, through community organisations and via online testing.

The PaSH  Partnership

Passionate about Sexual Health across Greater Manchester

**BHA** for equality  
in health  
and social care

GEORGE  
HOUSE TRUST  
OF GREAT MANCHESTER

**LGBT**  
foundation

# Why is National HIV Testing Week important?



## The number of people diagnosed with HIV is falling, but there is still work to do:

This year the Mayor Andy Burnham, leaders of the 10 local authorities and key stakeholders came together to reaffirm Greater Manchester's commitment to be a global leader in the fight to end all new cases of HIV within a generation and support those living with HIV to ensure that they get the best possible outcomes.

Continued progress relies on us finding and diagnosing people with HIV that do not know their status in order to ensure they get the best health care available and to prevent further onward transmission.

- » The number of new HIV diagnoses in Greater Manchester fell by 12.45% between 2017 and 2018
- » In Greater Manchester in 2018 42% of people diagnosed with HIV were diagnosed late.
- » Late diagnosis can lead to much poorer outcomes whereas those getting an early diagnosis and treatment can expect a normal life expectancy.
- » It is estimated that 1 in 8 people in England who are HIV positive do not know they are HIV positive.
- » In Greater Manchester 97.4% of people who are accessing HIV care have an undetectable viral load.
- » Taking HIV medication as prescribed and getting an undetectable viral load means you can't pass on HIV to a partner, even without a condom. Undetectable = Untransmittable U=U

National HIV Testing Week provides us with an important opportunity to upscale our response to HIV prevention and increase testing opportunities for key populations across Greater Manchester.



## Give HIV the finger: a finger-prick test is all it takes.



## Get involved by...

- » Order and use National HIV Testing Week 2019 branded posters and resources. To order go to: [hperesources.org.uk](http://hperesources.org.uk)
- » Promote the 'When to Test, 'Test finder' and 'Which Test tools available at [www.itstartswithme.org.uk](http://www.itstartswithme.org.uk) website.
- » Find more testing opportunities and HIV prevention information at [www.gmpash.org.uk/hiv-testing](http://www.gmpash.org.uk/hiv-testing)
- » Use the social media pack for National Testing Week and promote PaSH's testing opportunities across your borough. #HIVTestWeek #GiveHIVTheFinger #GMPaSH
- » Promote the national HIV self-sampling service which provides HIV screening kits by post to the most at risk groups [www.freetesting.hiv](http://www.freetesting.hiv)
- » Raise awareness of where we are testing by sharing our HIV testing schedule leaflet and Tweet about our testing opportunities using @GMPaSH #GiveHIVtheFinger

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