

**National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System
Boston MSM2021 Consent Form
Men in the Know**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) invite you to be part of a project about HIV in your community. The information I will give you can help you make a good choice about joining the project.

A. Why we are doing this project

The purpose of this project is to learn about risk for HIV. We will use this information to plan better HIV prevention and treatment programs for people in your community. This project is private, which means that I will not ask for your name and no one will be able to identify you or connect your responses to you. Being in this project is voluntary.

B. What will happen

If you agree to be in this project, this is what will happen.

1. You will do an interview with a trained staff member. The questions will ask about your health, drug use, sex practices, and HIV prevention services. It will take about 40 minutes. At the end of the interview, you may be offered a chance to recruit up to 5 other people for this project.

Interviews will be conducted remotely by secure, private phone or video call. Video calls will use HIPAA compliant Zoom. You do not need to have the app; you can join in a web browser. We will need you to provide an email address or phone number so the Zoom invitation can be sent to you.

We may need to refer back to any contact information such as email or phone number we collect in order to schedule your interview and or to pay you.

2. If you refer a friend, relative or anyone else you know for an interview with us, we will pay you \$10 for each person who you refer and who successfully completes their interview. we may reference your contact information that we previously collected in order to pay you for your referral. All contact information will be deleted at the conclusion of the survey in December 2021.
3. If you agree to the interview, we will offer you a free HIV test. If you already know that you have HIV, we would still like to offer you an HIV test so that we can link the HIV test result with your interview responses.
4. If you agree, we may contact you between now and November 30th for a brief, paid post-interview survey.
 - 1) HIV testing will consist of an In-Person Rapid HIV Test with a Men in the Know Staff Member at a Fenway Health Location

- a) With the coupon manager, you will schedule your HIV testing appointment after you complete the survey. After you complete the survey, you may also call the Men in the Know staff to schedule your test. Free Men in the Know Survey HIV tests may only be scheduled up to 2 weeks following the completion of your survey. You will be required to supply your participant ID at the time of testing.
 - b) We will stick the tip of one of your fingers to obtain a few drops of blood. You can get the result of your HIV test within 5 minutes. If the first rapid test is reactive, we will do a second rapid test to confirm your results. For the additional rapid test, we will stick the tip of one of your fingers to obtain a few drops of blood. If you already know you have HIV, we may only do one rapid test.
- 2) If you feel uncomfortable with in-person HIV testing that is part of the survey, you can opt to complete a Rapid Oral Self-Test (OraQuick test) via a Fenway Health Location Pick-Up
- a) With the coupon manager, you will schedule an OraQuick pick-up appointment. You may only pickup your OraQuick HIV test at the Fenway Health testing location during Men in the Know testing hours. Pick-up will not be available outside of Men in the Know testing hours. When retrieving your test, you will schedule a separate 30-minute virtual testing appointment via Zoom. Virtual testing appointments will only be available during normal Men in the Know testing hours. During the virtual testing appointment, Men in the Know staff will instruct you on how to complete the OraQuick test. Confirmatory tests will not be available to participants who opt for home-based testing. You will be required to supply your participant ID at the time of both appointments.
 - b) The oral rapid HIV test will be self-collected and performed by you. During your virtual testing appointment, a staff member will guide you in performing the test. Do not eat, drink, or use oral care products within the 30 minutes before starting the test. You will gently swipe the test swab along your upper gums once and lower gums once. You can get the result of your HIV test within 20 minutes.

If you agree to the HIV test, you will have about a 10-minute prevention counseling session with a trained staff member. The session will cover the meaning of results from the HIV test. You will also learn about how to reduce your chances of being infected with HIV and other infectious diseases. You will get referrals for additional testing and services, if needed. You will NOT get medical treatment in this project.

Linkage

We will link your test results with your interview responses so we can learn about sexual and drug-use risk behaviors known to be connected with HIV infection. We will link your test results using the same ID assigned to the interview. Your name will not be on the test results or the interview. No one besides you will be told your test results, and neither your interview responses nor the test will be placed in any medical record.

C. Things to consider

There are minimal risks from being in this project:

1. Some of the questions in the interview are about sex and drugs and may make you feel uncomfortable.
2. The fingerstick or blood draw may cause temporary discomfort from the needle stick, bruising, bleeding, light-headedness, and local infection.

3. Collecting an oral sample may cause tingling of the gums or mouth or temporary discomfort.
4. You may feel uncomfortable finding out you might have been infected with HIV.
5. If your HIV test result is negative, there is a slight chance that the results are wrong and that you could still be infected.

D. Benefits

Benefits you may get from being in this project include:

1. You will receive condoms and information on HIV/AIDS and STDs.
2. You will receive free referrals to other local programs, as needed.
3. If your HIV results are positive, you will receive counseling about ways to prevent the spread of infection and you will be able to talk about your concerns, if you wish. You will also be referred for medical care.
4. If your test results are negative, you will receive counseling on how to prevent future infections.

E. Alternatives

If you choose not to take part in the project but would like to take an HIV test, we will inform you of agencies or organizations that provide testing.

F. Compensation

For completion of the interview, you will get \$50. If you take part in the HIV test, you will get an additional \$25. You may also get \$10 each for up to 5 people whom you send to us for the project. You will be paid through a VISA gift card and/or American Express gift card picked up via a scheduled appointment with a staff member at a Fenway Health office location. Payment with a gift card can also be paid virtually over Zoom during a scheduled Men in the Know appointment.

If you are selected and complete the post-interview survey you will be paid \$25 via VISA or American Express gift card.

G. Persons to Contact

This study is run by: Monina Klevens, 617.983.6841. You may call her with any questions about being in the study.

If you have questions about your rights as a participant or if you feel that you have been harmed, contact Candace Nelson, IRB Co-Chair at 617.624.5621

If you want one, you will get a copy of this form to keep.

H. Confidentiality Statement

This project is private; we will not ask your name. Your responses and test results will be labeled with a project number only. The project staff at Fenway Health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and CDC will have access to the interview and testing data. Other collaborators will have access to the interview and testing data but will not be allowed to see any information that could identify you. Your responses will be grouped with interview answers from other persons.

If you know your interviewer, you may ask for another staff member so that your answers will be fully private.

We may need your phone number and/or email address to offer you easy ways to participate in the interview, for payment or testing. Contact information will be kept separate from the interview and testing data and only limited staff will have access to that information. Once the interview and testing are completed and results are returned, we will destroy your contact information. If you prefer to not provide this information, we can discuss how you might participate without providing contact information.

I. Costs

You will not be charged for counseling, the HIV test, safer sex and HIV prevention materials, referrals to appropriate agencies, or any other services provided by this project. If you use a cell phone for your interview or testing appointment, your phone plan might charge you for phone minutes or data use, depending on your plan. We will not reimburse you for phone minutes or data use charges you may incur during participation.

J. Right to Refuse or Withdraw

Participation in this project is completely VOLUNTARY. You are not giving up any legal claims or rights for being a part of this project. If you agree to participate, you are free to quit at any time. You may refuse to answer any question. You can choose to only do the interview and not to have an HIV test. You can also choose not to recruit others.

K. Agreement

Do you have any questions?

Interviewer: Answer the participant's questions before proceeding to the next question.

You have read or had read to you the explanation of this project, you have been given a copy of this form, the opportunity to discuss any questions that you might have and the right to refuse participation. I am going to ask for your consent to participate in this project.

(Consent will be documented by the interviewer as follows:)

Do you agree to take part in the interview?

- Yes
- No

If yes:

Do you agree to HIV counseling and testing?

- Yes
- No

If yes: Which HIV testing option do you choose?

- In-Person Rapid HIV Test with a Men in the Know staff member at a Fenway Health Location
- Rapid Oral Self-Test (OraQuick test) via Fenway Health Location Pick-Up

Do you agree to be contacted for a brief, paid post-interview survey?

- Yes
- No

If declined:

We're interested in knowing why people do not want to do this project. Would you mind telling me which of the following best describes the reason you do not want to do this project?

- You don't have time
- You don't want to talk about these topics
- Some other reason
- You'd rather not say why