HIV Testing

About HIV
HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, can be spread through unprotected vaginal, anal, or oral sex, sharing needles, or through childbirth or breastfeeding.

Treatment is available to manage HIV and minimize the risk of developing AIDS. People with HIV can take measures to prevent transmission to partners, and medication (PrEP) is available to protect partners of HIV-positive individuals.

About HIV testing
- By law, health care providers must offer an HIV test to all patients aged 13-64.
- Testing is voluntary and all HIV test results are confidential.
- Anonymous HIV testing is available at some public testing sites (see below).
- You may withdraw your consent to be tested at any time – either verbally or in writing.
- It is illegal to discriminate against anyone because of their HIV status.

If you want to get tested
At Cornell Health
HIV blood testing is available to students at Cornell Health for no charge. Please talk with your healthcare provider during a medical or sexual health appointment, or schedule an appointment for HIV testing by phone or online (health.cornell.edu/appointments).

Other testing options
Students may also get tested elsewhere in the community, including at Tompkins County Whole Health (TCHW), Planned Parenthood, and the Southern Tier AIDS Program (fees vary). Anonymous testing is offered at TCWH.