

HIV-SELF TESTING & PrEP: THE ROLE OF FAITH GROUPS

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COMMUNICATION PROTOTYPES



FAITH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

**NEW CHOICES.
NEW TREATMENT.
NEW TIMING.
NEW *HOPE*.**

A Guide for Faith Leaders and faith communities to bridge the gaps in HIV testing, treatment, care and support for men and children.



FAITH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE



TRUSTED FAITH
LEADERS CAN
TAKE INNOVATIONS
AND SOLUTIONS
TO THEIR
COMMUNITIES,
TO ADDRESS THE
CORE GAPS
IN HIV TESTING
AND TREATMENT



HIV SELF TESTING

Many men avoid HIV testing because:

- ▶ Fear of discrimination, and
- ▶ Concerns about confidentiality

HIV self-testing is safe, accurate, and easy to use!



Now, in many countries, there are tests called self-tests, that people can take in the **privacy** of their own homes.



NEW CHOICES ABOUT HIV TESTING

What are some opportunities to address these gaps? What is the Good News about New Choices available in HIV testing?

Today, we have New Choices available for HIV testing. With these options, individuals have more choice, privacy and control over how and where they are tested.

An example of this is HIV self-testing.

WITH LIFE AT ITS BEST, YOU CHOOSE HOW TO TEST!



What is HIVST?

HIV self-testing is the process in which a person collects his or her own specimen (oral fluid or blood) and then performs an HIV test and interprets the result, often in a private setting, either alone or with someone he or she trusts.

HIVST does not provide a definitive HIV-positive diagnosis. All reactive (positive) self-test results need to be confirmed by a trained tester. Non-reactive (negative) self-test results are considered negative.

However, individuals who may have been exposed to HIV in the past 6 weeks and those at high on-going risk (such as key populations) are advised to retest.

**MY REASONS
FOR GETTING AN HIV TEST**

MY PARTNER

MY FAMILY

MY COMMUNITY

**WHAT'S YOUR REASON?
GET TESTED FOR HIV**

GET A FAST, SAFE AND CONFIDENTIAL HIV SELF-TEST

Illustrations by Alice Müller



How soon should someone test after a potential HIV exposure?

HIV self-test kits detect HIV antibodies, which develop in the weeks after acquiring HIV infection. As with any form of HIV testing, a self-test will not detect the HIV antibodies for at least six weeks after an HIV exposure. Therefore, people should be advised to self-test three months after a potential HIV exposure to be sure that the result is accurate.

MY REASONS FOR GETTING AN HIV TEST



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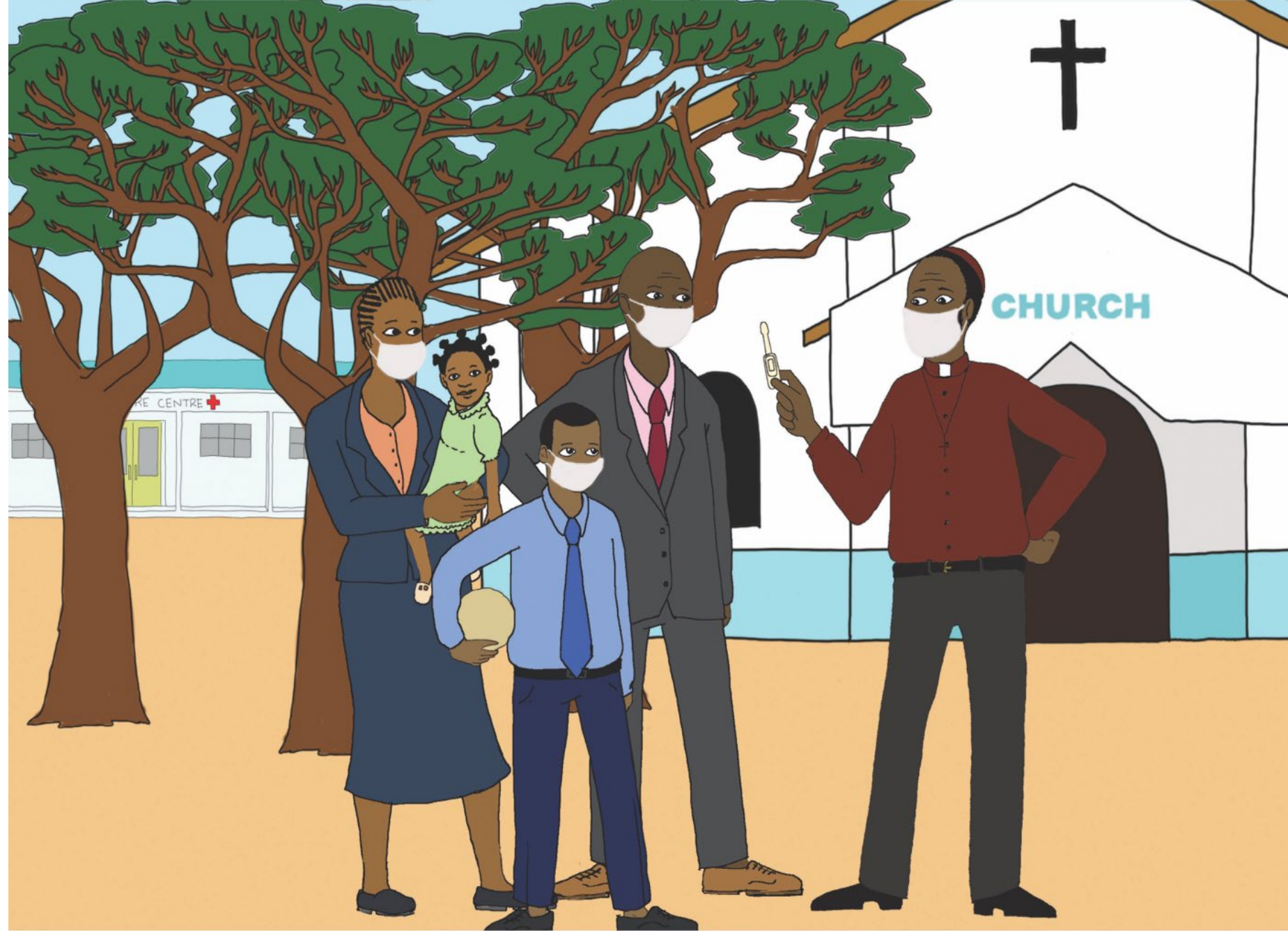
MY COMMUNITY

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Photos by Eric Bondou/EGPAF and Albin Hillert/WCC

A person who has HIV and is taking antiretroviral therapy should not use a self-test kit. It might give a false negative result.



A clearing house of information on HIV self-testing to further collaboration between global public health stakeholders. [Find out more »](#)

EVIDENCE



Search the database of HIVST research

[Search evidence »](#)

POLICY



Country-level policy and regulatory data

[Search policy »](#)

TWEETS

Tweets about HIV self-testing

[More »](#)

YOUTUBE

Videos about HIV self-testing

[More »](#)

FBOS ARE WORKING TO INCREASE IDENTIFICATION THROUGH HIV SELF-TESTING

Faith community leaders, and FBOs can help reach people who may feel more comfortable with using a HIV self-test for initial testing, with confirmatory testing taking place at the clinic. In addition they can support those testing with “buddies” who accompany them to the clinic.

Training local leaders and organizations on how to use HIV self-tests is essential to reaching those who are in need of knowing their status.



PREVENTION

What should we do if an individual at risk of HIV infection tests HIV negative? What prevention strategies can help him/her to remain HIV negative?

AS LEADERS IN YOUR COMMUNITIES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP, YOU CAN HELP SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT EPIDEMIC CONTROL.



PREVENTION

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

Another HIV prevention strategy available to people who may be exposed to HIV or are at risk of exposure is called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis, or PrEP. PrEP consists in the use of anti-HIV medication that keeps HIV-negative people from getting HIV. PrEP has been found to be highly effective. HIV negative people who take PrEP every day can lower their risk of acquiring HIV by more than 99%.

PrEP is only to be used by people who are HIV negative and it is recommended for people at elevated risk of getting HIV, such as discordant couples where one partner is HIV positive and one is HIV negative. PrEP should be used in addition to other prevention services.



FAITH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

LOVE YOURSELF TO LOVE OTHERS!

PEP PREP

IF YOU ARE HIV-NEGATIVE, MAKE SURE TO KNOW ABOUT WAYS YOU CAN AVOID HIV INFECTION. WHEN USED IN ADDITION TO OTHER PREVENTION SERVICES IS VERY EFFECTIVE! PREP SHOULD BE TAKEN ONCE A DAY AT THE SAME TIME!

PREP IS ONLY TO BE USED BY PEOPLE WHO ARE HIV NEGATIVE AND IT IS RECOMMENDED FOR PEOPLE AT ELEVATED RISK OF GETTING HIV, SUCH AS DISCORDANT COUPLES WHERE ONE PARTNER IS HIV POSITIVE AND ONE IS HIV NEGATIVE.

 **FAITH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE**

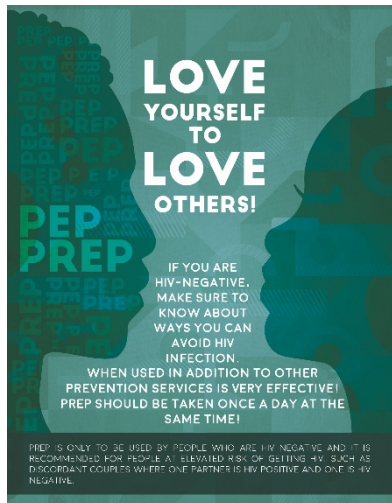
The poster features a teal background with silhouettes of two people facing each other. The text is in white and teal. The words 'PEP' and 'PREP' are prominently displayed in large, bold letters. The overall design is clean and informative.

When taken daily, PrEP is highly effective for preventing HIV. Studies have shown that PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by about 99% when taken daily. Among people who inject drugs, PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV by at least 74% when taken daily. PrEP is much less effective if it is not taken consistently.



People on PrEP can self-test

A person who takes pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV acquisition may want to self-test in addition to HIV testing at a facility every three months. Community organizations can encourage and support people using PrEP to retest periodically and also to advise that self-testing cannot replace quarterly retesting during facility visits.



FAITH LEADERS

What you can do

Faith leaders can build health for their communities by spreading these essential facts about treatment for those living with HIV:

- ▶ If people DO take their medicine daily as prescribed, they will be healthy, live a long life, and won't give HIV to their partners.
- ▶ If people DON'T take their medication, they will become sicker and die.

Faith Leaders have an important role in stopping the spread of HIV:

- ▶ Encourage people to get tested
- ▶ Encourage people living with HIV to take their medication
- ▶ Advocate for care and prevention for those living with HIV
- ▶ Pray for physical and emotional strength of those affected by HIV
- ▶ Call on communities and families to support people living with HIV



THANK YOU

<https://www.faithandcommunityinitiative.org>



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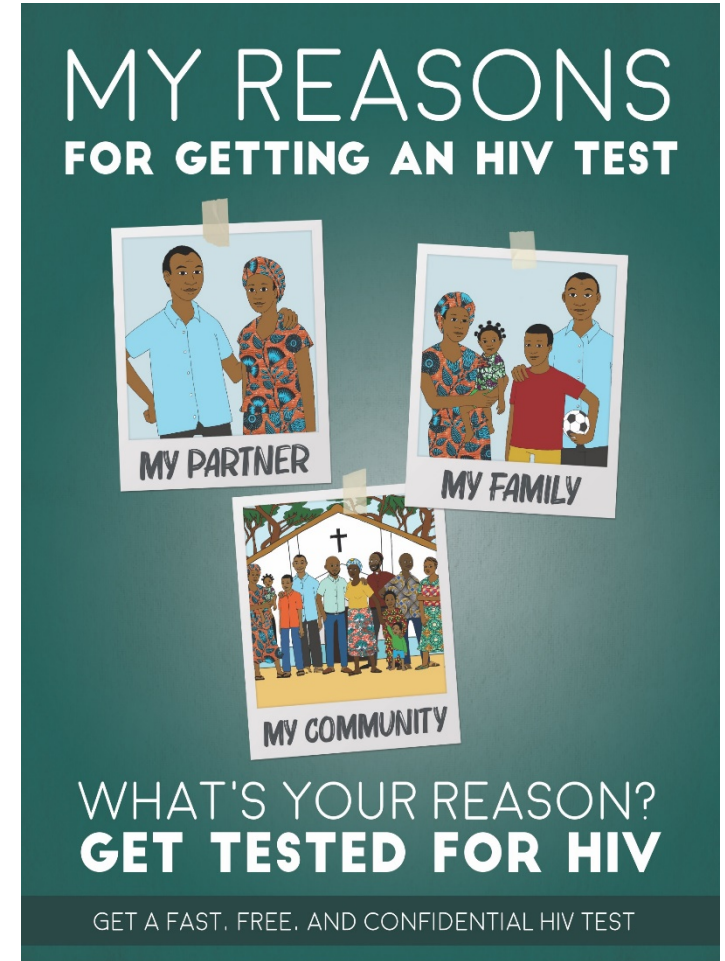
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