



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL

Governor

JAMES V. McDONALD, MD, MPH

Commissioner

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

January 2026

Dear Colleagues:

As partners across the state continue to work towards ending the epidemic and increasing access to sexual health services, we are pleased to announce the launch of our free HIV Self-Test Giveaway.

The HIV Self-Test Giveaway is a self-testing strategy that makes HIV testing easily accessible and available to persons who may not seek out traditional in-person HIV testing services. The giveaway launched on January 20, 2026 and ends on March 24, 2026. As a critical partner to the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute we encourage your active participation in this initiative.

This giveaway will prioritize cisgender Latinas, members of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) community, and cisgender Black women.

Recognizing and appreciating the diverse nature of the priority populations, we held focus groups to elicit feedback to ensure that our messaging is culturally and linguistically competent and community focused. The AIDS Institute will advertise the HIV Self-Test Giveaway in both English and Spanish on multiple social media platforms (e.g., Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook). Campaign ads will include a link to an online eligibility survey. Eligible participants will be emailed a discount code and instructions for redeeming a free HIV self-test kit via the OraSure Technologies, Inc. website. Participants who are ineligible will be referred to the AIDS Institute website for information on HIV testing and additional resources.

Once again, the AIDS Institute is requesting your assistance to help raise community awareness. Please share the attached materials and include this [link](#) to the online eligibility survey on your agency and/or program website(s), social media sites, etcetera. Agencies are encouraged to include this information in their messaging as well. Please note that the expanded HIV Self-Test Giveaway is for New York State residents who live outside of the five boroughs of New York City. For New York City residents, request a free HIV self-test kit by contacting an agency participating in the [Community Home Test Giveaway \(CHTG\) program](#). Find CHTG partners on the NYC Health Map by clicking the Sexual Health Services category and then HIV Testing. HIV self-testing is available statewide.

Should you have any questions regarding this correspondence or the HIV Self-Test Giveaway, please email HSTG@health.ny.gov. Thank you for your ongoing support, commitment, and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Kerwin".

Joseph Kerwin
Director
AIDS Institute