

The Health Department presents its promotion policies for the HIV test in Catalonia

The goal of this citizen-focussed campaign is the early detection of HIV through antibody testing.

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Today, the Director-General of Public Health, Antoni Plasència, presented the promotion policies for HIV testing in Catalonia. This year's initiatives include the implementation of rapid diagnostic tests and a campaign aimed at homosexual men, with the motto *JO SÍ... em faig la prova!* (YES...I'll get tested!). A leaflet has also been created to inform the general public about the test, *VIH/sida. No li donis més voltes. Fes-te la prova*, (HIV/AIDS. Stop debating. Just get tested.) It will be distributed at chemist's, health centres and NGOs that assist in the fight against AIDS.

Those who also participated in the presentation were: Rafael Borràs, Head of the AIDS and Drug Addiction Programme of the Pharmaceutical Associations Council of Catalonia; Roger Vinyeta, representative for the Catalan Society of Family and Community Medicine; Ferran Pujol, Director of the Names Project - *Hispanosida*; and Judith Cobeña, President of the Anti-AIDS Association of Catalonia.

Diagnosing HIV is one of the Health Department's main priorities. The sooner one knows whether they have been infected with HIV, the sooner they can take advantage of medical care and begin an effective treatment programme that will improve their quality of life. They will also be able to take the necessary precautions to prevent reinfection and the transmission of HIV. Between 41%-43% of the HIV diagnoses in Catalonia are delayed. Thus, early diagnosis of the HIV infection must be encouraged.