



Joint statement on HIV testing in pregnancy, 10/10/2025

Endorsed by The New Zealand Microbiology Network, New Zealand Branch of the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases, and the New Zealand Sexual Health Society.

In the context of the evolving outbreak of HIV in the Pacific, as well as the two recent unrelated cases of perinatal HIV transmission in New Zealand, we are providing the following information for those caring for all pregnant people in New Zealand:

In New Zealand, HIV testing is routinely tested as part of the first antenatal testing bundle:

- Ensure anyone presenting for care while pregnant is offered first antenatal testing if not already done so earlier in pregnancy, regardless of gestation.
- Ensure pregnant people who are booked overseas are retested as part of their first antenatal visit in New Zealand.

Additionally, repeat HIV testing early in the third trimester (28–32 weeks), is recommended for people with negative results on their initial HIV tests during pregnancy who may be at higher risk of acquiring HIV, e.g., those who:

- Have had a new sexual partner or more than one sexual partner during the current pregnancy.
- Have a suspected or diagnosed STI during pregnancy.
- Inject drugs or have sex with people who inject drugs.
- Exchange sex for money or drugs.
- Are sexual partners of people with HIV (acknowledging Undetectable = Untransmittable).

HIV testing should be offered at any time in pregnancy for those who have an [HIV clinical indicator condition](#), or those who request a test.

Pregnant people who decline testing earlier in pregnancy should be offered testing again during the third trimester.

Testing should be offered urgently during labour or delivery for those not tested earlier in pregnancy and whose pregnancy status is otherwise unknown.

References:

ASHM. US DHHS guidelines with Australian commentary. Maternal HIV Testing and Identification of Perinatal HIV Exposure. Available at: <https://hiv.guidelines.org.au/arv-pediatric/hiv-exposure/#:~:text=Maternal%20HIV%20testing%20should%20be%20performed%20as%20early%20as%20possible,soon%20as%20possible%20after%20delivery>. Accessed on 26/08/25.

RANZCOG. Routine antenatal assessment in the absence of pregnancy complications. Available at: <https://ranzcof.au/wp-content/uploads/Routine-Antenatal-Assessment.pdf>. Accessed on: 26/8/25.