



# HIV self-testing project: logistics and supply chain management for community-based organizations

*Workshop 2*

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# REACH Nexus

- REACH Nexus is an ambitious national research group working on how to address HIV, Hepatitis C, and other STBBIs in Canada.
- Our focus is on reaching the undiagnosed, implementing and scaling up new testing options, strengthening connections to care, improving access to options for prevention (PrEP and PEP) and ending HIV stigma.

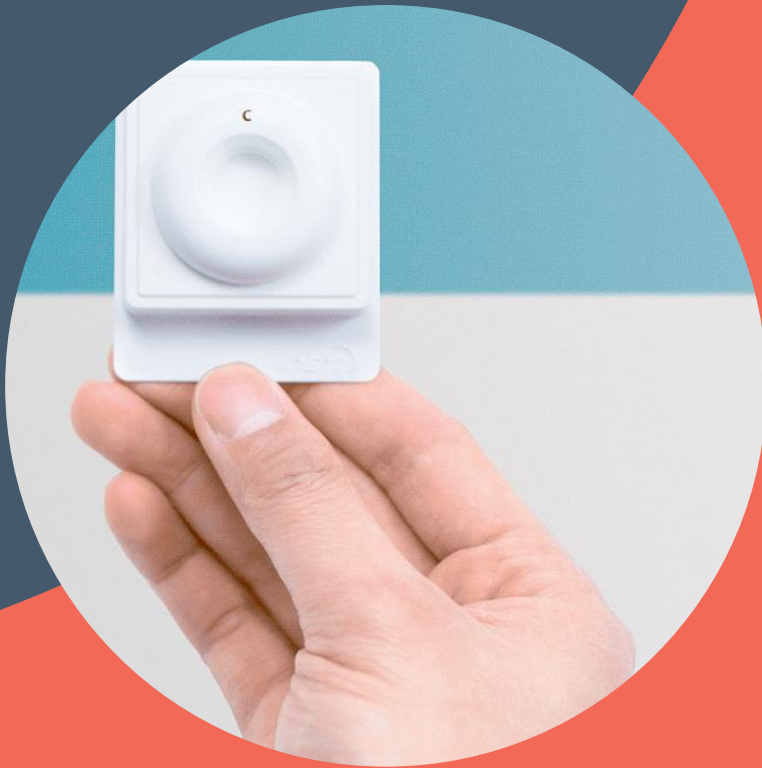
reachnexus

# Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC)

- The Community-Based Research Centre promotes the health of people of diverse sexualities and genders through research and intervention development. CBRC's core pillars include:
  - Community-led Research
  - Knowledge Exchange
  - Network-Building
  - Leadership Development



# The INSTI HIV Self-Test



- Approved by Health Canada on Nov. 3, 2020, it's the first HIV self-test approved in Canada.
- The Canadian manufacturer, bioLytical Labs, is based in Richmond, BC
- It's a safe and simple to use, 99% accuracy test (HIV-1/HIV-2 antibody test). The fingerprick test kit includes 3 vials, 1 lancet, 1 small device and a Band-aid.
- It's discreet and confidential: someone can take the test when and where they want to.
- Results show in one minute. A single control dot shows the results are valid. A second dot means a positive test result.

# INSTI HIV Self-Test Kits

- Each INSTI pouch contains:
  - Test Device Pouch (membrane)
  - Lancet
  - Bandage
  - Bottle 1, 2, and 3
  - Package Insert

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1G1ia1S7uZo>

# PROCUREMENT

- REACH Nexus has procured **200,000 kits** on behalf of the PHAC
- INSTI HIV self-test kits shipped to individual organizations starting **November 2022**

# RECEIVING SHIPMENTS

- The shipment should be inspected to ensure there are **no obvious signs of physical damage** to the kits (ie. crushed shipping boxes, open or torn pouches)
- If damage is observed, do NOT distribute the kits and contact REACH for follow up instructions.

# KIT STORAGE

- Kits are to be stored in a secure location at each organization
- The storage temperature should be between 2-30°C
- Storage temperature should be monitored daily, and if the temperature falls outside of this range, stop distributing the kits and contact REACH for follow up instructions.



# MANAGING EXPIRED KITS

- Do **NOT** provide anyone with a self-test kit past their expiry date (printed on the back of each test kit pouch).
- When providing self-tests that have less than one month of shelf life before expiry, please provide the person obtaining the kit with this information.
- By ordering only a few months supply at once we are hoping to mitigate any kits being distributed at or near their expiry date.

# DISPOSING OF EXPIRED OR DAMAGED KITS

- Expired kits must be disposed of after the date of expiry printed on the packaging.
- More details to follow on proper disposal instructions.
- Notify REACH Nexus of the disposal within 10 business days.

# PROGRAM STREAMS

- **REACH Nexus**
  - Community Link
  - CATIE bulk orders
- **CBRC**
  - Test Now Community-Based Organization Distribution
  - Test @ Home Program
  - Medicine Bundle

# COMMUNITY LINK

- National initiative launched on November 21, 2022.
- Aims to make HIV testing more accessible by making kits available through community-based organizations and sites
- Organizations participating are listed on [www.i-am.health](http://www.i-am.health) as a distribution site so that clients in their area know to seek self-test kits there.
- I AM Health Initiative provides clients access to resources and supports related to HIV testing, psychosocial support, and linkage to care

# COMMUNITY LINK - ORDERS

- Orders are submitted to bioLytical on a weekly basis for the duration of the project.
- Shipments are in quantities of 50.
- Organizations can submit a restock request at any time.
- These kits will be shipped to you at no cost direct from the manufacturer.

# COMMUNITY LINK – DATA COLLECTION

- Clients visit participating organizations and programs to request up to five HIV self-test kits at a time.
- Staff are to engage in a brief conversation with the client to collect some basic **anonymous** evaluation information. **A script is provided.**
- We are encouraging clients to take **more than one kit** and to share them as needed to family, friends and sexual partners.

# COMMUNITY LINK - PORTAL

- Data entered at the organization through a web browser (phone, tablet or computer friendly)
- Each organization will have their own login to access the web application.
- Modification to the data collection for event based test distribution is available as well
- Regular communications about Community Link updates and other helpful information

# COMMUNITY LINK - ENGAGEMENT

- If you choose to participate as a distribution site, you will be asked to:
  - Engage clients by distributing kits and collecting evaluation information
  - Enter administrative, inventory, and evaluation information into the online Community Link Portal.
- Community Link program will provide training to prepare you to distribute kits, use the portal, and participate in evaluation.
- Sites will have access to the data collected for use how they see fit.



# COMMUNITY LINK - INVENTORY CONTROL

- An inventory management system is built within the portal
- Organizations will be asked to confirm the receipt of kits, lot numbers, expiry dates within the system
- Prior to providing a client with any of the kits, the organization will need to scan each of the QR code(s) or manually enter the **kit ID number**
- The tracking and inventory system will update as the kits are scanned into the system.

# COMMUNITY LINK - QUESTIONS & CONTACT

Please reach out directly if you have any questions or concerns related to the distribution of HIV Self-test kits.

**[kristin.maclennan@unityhealth.to](mailto:kristin.maclennan@unityhealth.to)**

# CBRC – TEST NOW (CBOs)

- Micro-grant funds available to partners to support distribution; funds determined by # of kits ordered by CBOs
- Registration Form & MOU
- Kit Dispensers
- Kit orders are submitted to CBRC and then facilitated by REACH to administer shipments directly from bioLytical (kit manufacturer)
- Develop local post-test referral plans for confirmatory testing, linkage to HIV care, PrEP referral pathway, other STBBI testing, and community counselling/mental health supports

# CBRC – TEST NOW (CBOs) REPORTING TOOLS

- Monthly Reporting Tool
- Focus Groups (March 2023)

## Test Now Community Distribution 2.0 Delivery Partner Reporting Survey

### HIVST Distribution

Please fill out the questions to the best of your ability. Only the first 4 questions are mandatory.

\* What is the name of your organization?

\* Please select the month(s) for which you are reporting:

December 2022

January 2023

February 2023

March 2023

\* What is the total number of HIV self-test kits that you distributed during the month(s) selected?

\* How many people were HIVST kits distributed to during the month(s) selected?

# CBRC – TEST NOW (BARS/BUSINESSES/VENUES)

- Similar to CBO distribution
- Micro-grant funds available in the form of sponsorship packages
- Registration Process & MOU
- Kit Dispensers
- Kit orders are submitted to and facilitated by CBRC from our Vancouver office
- Test Now Buddies will reach out to assist with data collection

# CBRC – TEST @ HOME

- Test @ Home provides free HIV self-test kits by mail to 2S/LGBTQIA+ individuals anywhere in Canada. People can request up to four kits, which will be sent in discreet packaging from the Community Based Research Centre. People can use this service as many times as they like.
- QR Code Stickers on kits with more information & support





# CBRC – MEDICINE BUNDLE

- The Medicine Bundle contains an HIV self-test kit, Indigenous medicines (sage, sweetgrass, tobacco, cedar, lavender, Labrador tea, bear grease and Devil's club salve), sexual health supplies, and additional resources
- Orders can be placed through online order form for individuals (not organizations)
- To be eligible to receive a Medicine Bundle, you must:
  - Identify as Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit)
  - Be a resident of what is colonially referred to as British Columbia



Request your  
Medicine  
Bundle today.

*“Two-Spirit people exist in the realm outside of the binary. We are weaving together medicines to protect our Nations.”*

Two-Spirit Program

**cbrc**  
Community-Based Research Centre

# CBRC – TEST NOW BUDDIES

- Test Now Buddies are available by phone, text and email to offer peer support and guidance about how to use the HIV self-test correctly.
- Buddies can also connect participants with HIV and STBBI prevention/care resources such as confirmatory testing and HIV prevention tools, as well as mental health support.
- Toll Free Call/Text: **1-877-607-2272**  
Email: **[buddies@cbrc.net](mailto:buddies@cbrc.net)**
  - Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm EST, responses within 1-2 business days
  - Closed statutory holidays
  - Support available until **March 31, 2023**



# CBRC – REGISTRATION

- Test Now (CBOs): [Test Now CBO Registration](#)
- Test Now (Bars/Businesses/Venues): [Test Now Bars/Businesses/Venues Registration](#)
- Test @ Home: [Test @ Home Order Form](#)
- Medicine Bundle: [Medicine Bundle Order Form](#)

More information can be found at [cbrc.net](http://cbrc.net) or by reaching out to Chris Weiss ([chris.weiss@cbrc.net](mailto:chris.weiss@cbrc.net)) for Test Now related inquiries