

POLICY: Poverello's HIV self-testing program allows eligible people to take an HIV test and find out their result in their own home or other private location. According to CDC, the availability of HIV self-tests in the US may help increase awareness of HIV infection for people who wouldn't otherwise get an HIV test. Poverello will provide the free tests through our *self-funded program* to people who claim income less than 400% of FPL through our Thrift Stores, Pop Up Food Pantry, and Outreach events.

PROCEDURE: Poverello seeks to expand access to at home HIV self-testing for those who make less than 400% of FPL and are part of our identified prioritized population.

- A. Anyone who requests a take home HIV testing kit at one of our thrift stores will be asked to make a simple declaration that they make less than 400% of FPL, are not on HIV treatment or HIV prevention medications and are willing to provide their phone number for follow up within 48 hours, if we don't hear from the program participant sooner. If they make more than 400% of FPL, we direct them to our free on-site HIV testing service.
- B. Poverello utilizes FDA Approved OraQuick[®] In-Home HIV Tests.
 - a. The OraQuick[®] test is an oral swab-based test that does not require blood draw.
 - b. The test is appropriate if the risk event that could have caused HIV infection is at least *three months prior* to the testing date.
- C. This take-home test identifies the presence of antibodies to HIV, *it does not detect HIV itself*. This can confuse some people who think the test is identifying HIV in saliva and lead to misunderstanding about the transmissibility of HIV in saliva. Staff should emphasize that the test measures antibodies produced by their own body in response to an HIV infection found in saliva, after a 3-month period from infection date. If someone's exposure is less than 3 months, they should use our free testing service that uses a combination test that measures both the presence of HIV as well as antibodies. The free in person confidential HIV test can measure HIV infection as little as two weeks prior to the test.
- D. What makes a risk event?
 - a. Sex (vaginal, anal or oral) with multiple sex partners)
 - b. Sex with someone who is HIV positive or whose HIV status is unknown.
 - c. Sex between a man and another man.
 - d. Using illegal injected drugs or steroids.
 - e. Shared needles or syringes.
 - f. Exchanged sex for money.
 - g. Having been diagnosed or treated for hepatitis, tuberculosis or a sexually transmitted disease like syphilis.
- E. This test is *not appropriate* for people who have HIV or are on preventative treatment for HIV like PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) or PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis).
- F. This test is not appropriate for people 16 or younger.
- G. If eligible, the patient will complete the Poverello HIV Self-Testing Program Intake form.
- H. Thrift store staff provides the completed form directly to the testing counselor via Ring Central text or fax to 954-228-8984.
- I. Thrift store staff, pop up staff or provides each client that receives a at home HIV self-test kit a prevention flyer in their preferred language about PrEP and HIV treatment access.

Approvals:

Signature:	Thomas S. Pietrogallo, MSW/LCSW, MBA	Title CEO
Signature:	Dr. Emmanuel Orelus, MD	Title Medical Director

BOD Approved Date: Pending

Date Established 07/27/2022

Dates Reviewed/Revised:

Attachments: Poverello HIV Self-Testing Program Intake form

References:

Gaydos CA, Hsieh YH, Harvey L, et al. Will patients “opt in” to perform their own rapid HIV test in the emergency department? *Ann Emerg Med*. 2011;58(1 Suppl 1):S74–S78. doi: 10.1016/j.annemergmed.2011.03.029. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]

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Nour S, Hsieh YH, Rothman RE, et al. Patients can accurately perform their own rapid hiv point-of-care test in the emergency department. *Point of care*. 2012;11(4):176–179. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Carballo-Dieguez A, Frasca T, Dolezal C, Balan I. Will gay and bisexually active men at high risk of infection use over-the-counter rapid HIV tests to screen sexual partners? *J Sex Res*. 2012;49(4):379–387. doi: 10.1080/00224499.2011.647117. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]

CDC new hope for stopping HIV. *CDC vital signs*. 2011. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/VitalSigns/pdf/2011-12-vitalsigns.pdf>. Accessed 12 Nov 2014.