

PRESS RELEASE

The Czech Republic joins European HIV and Hepatitis Testing Week on November 18. Tests are anonymous and free of charge.

European HIV and Viral Hepatitis (B, C) Testing Week begins in the Czech Republic on Tuesday, November 18. The event, which will last until November 24, highlights the importance of early diagnosis and the need to break down prejudice associated with HIV. A total of 97 testing sites, including permanent counseling centers and mobile stations, will be available in all 14 regions of the Czech Republic. Those interested can check their health status free of charge and consult experts if they have any questions.

The testing is coordinated by the National Institute of Public Health (SZÚ) and financially supported by the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic (MZ ČR).

"We emphasize that anyone can come, regardless of age, gender, or nationality. Those tested for HIV are given an anonymous code, which is, used to receive their results. In addition to HIV, we also offer tests for hepatitis B, C, and syphilis. Early detection of infection significantly improves quality of life. In the case of HIV, it allows immediate access to treatment at one of ten specialized centers," says Chief Hygienist and Director of SZÚ MUDr. Barbora Macková, MHA.

An overview of all testing locations, including current opening hours, can be found at www.tadyted.com. The website also offers basic information about HIV and sexually transmitted infections in **ten languages**.

The counseling center at the National Institute of Public Health at Šrobárova 48, Prague 10, will be open every workday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. during the testing week.

"At the clinic, you can talk to our experts, ask anything about sexually transmitted infections, and, most importantly, verify that you are not infected. For example, are you sure you have never had unprotected sex? And if not, have you been tested since then? Don't hesitate; come for a test and advice without fear. We are here for you," urges MUDr. Anna Kubátová, SZÚ expert and manager of the National HIV/AIDS Program in the Czech Republic.

In 2024, a total of 2,220 people, both Czech and foreign nationals, took advantage of this opportunity to check their health status. For four of them, the 20-minute test enabled them to start HIV treatment immediately, thereby improving their quality of life. Eight people started treatment for hepatitis B, and five people started treatment for syphilis. Twenty-nine underwent further testing for hepatitis C.

Currently, around 600 people in the Czech Republic are unaware of their HIV status, thus losing the opportunity for timely treatment and a better quality of life. Take advantage of the opportunity to contact experts, find a testing center in your region (www.tadyted.com), and come.