

Appendix B: Sex Now 2022 Consent Form



**University
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Survey Consent Form

Invitation to be part of the survey

This survey is being done by the Community-Based Research Centre, the University of Victoria, and the CIHR Centre for REACH Nexus. The survey is called Sex Now and is for gay, bisexual, trans, and queer men, and Two-Spirit and non-binary people (GBT2Q). You are invited to be in this survey.

The Principal Investigator for this study is Dr. Nathan Lachowsky (a gay, white, cisgender man) who is an Associate Professor at the University of Victoria and Research Director for the Community-Based Research Centre (nlachowsky@uvic.ca, 250-472-5739).

What is the survey about?

The purpose of the survey is to learn more about the health of gay, bisexual, trans, and queer men, and Two-Spirit and non-binary people (GBT2Q) including possible infections, such as HIV.

What will I be asked to do?

If you agree to participate, the study team will ask you to complete a questionnaire on a tablet or on your own device. The questionnaire includes some questions about your everyday life including your sex life, mental health, access to and use of healthcare and wellness services, substance use, and attitudes. It will take about 15 minutes to complete. At the end of the survey, you will be asked if you would like to participate in an optional HIV self-testing and peer navigation component of the study.

Are there any risks involved in the survey?

You may be visible to other people while completing the survey, which may make others aware that you are eligible for the study. If this is a concern for you, you may choose not to participate. Additionally, you may know some of the people involved in recruitment for this study. If this is the case, you are under no obligation to participate, and choosing not to participate will not impact future access to or use of services at these or other organizations.

We know that answering personal questions (such as those about substance use, discrimination, sexual abuse or barriers to accessing care or support) can be difficult and may upset or distress you. If you are upset by any question or feel uncomfortable at any time, please tell the study team. If you like, they can help you get support and refer you to an outreach worker or counsellor. If needed, we can also provide you with a list of GBT2Q+ support resources which you can access. This includes a number of 24/7 crisis lines that can be reached at any time and who have been notified about this study.

If you choose to participate, there is a risk of COVID-19 transmission for in-person research activities. To minimize this risk, all study staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before engaging in any in-person activities. Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes will also be available. If you wish to further reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, you may wish to wear a face mask and practice physical distancing during your participation. We will also notify participants of any potential COVID-19 exposure incidents on CBRC's social media channels.

What are my rights?

This study is completely voluntary. Your responses will remain confidential and you may choose to participate in the survey without providing your name. You don't have to answer any questions you don't want to answer. You can also stop at any time and will not be penalized. If your responses are not linked to your name, we cannot remove any responses if you decide to stop doing the survey. If you do provide your name, you can request to have your data removed at any time up until 6 months after the study ends, at which time we will permanently delete all identifiers (names, contact information) from the dataset.

What are the benefits?

If you are interested, the study team will tell you where to go for HIV, hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted infections testing and counselling. The study team can also refer you to a variety of health, treatment, and social services. By participating, you are helping to generate data which will help to improve the health and well-being of GBT2Q people by providing researchers and community organizations with the information they need to make things better. You'll also get to access findings from the study online for free next year through the Community-Based Research Centre's website.

Is there any compensation for participating?

To thank you for participating, we will give you \$10.00 cash and an additional HIV self-test, which you can either use yourself at a later date or give to a partner or friend. You will receive the honoraria even if you decide to stop early.

How will my personal information be protected?

Since data for this study is being collected online, there is a risk of a privacy breach where online data could be unintentionally accessed by someone outside of our research team. We are taking precautions to minimize this risk. The information you provide in the survey will be treated according to privacy laws including the Federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA). All data will be stored on encrypted Qualtrics during data collection, then removed and only stored on University of Victoria servers in Canada that will only be accessed by people on our research team who have signed a confidentiality agreement and undergone privacy training. The Qualtrics license being used for this study is a personal license owned by Dr. Lachowsky. No data will be stored on servers in the United States. Upon study completion and prior to sharing data with anyone else, all data will be fully anonymized to further protect your personal information.

Who are you sharing data and findings with?

The information that you provide (which does not include your name or any contact information) will be shared with the research team at the Community-Based Research Centre and the University of Victoria. The data collected may be shared with other researchers who are interested in the health of GBT2Q people at a later date. This is a required component of the study and your consent to participate includes this future use of your data. However, you will not be identifiable within this data. We will never share your name or contact information, if you provide it to us.

We will share our findings with academic, government, and community groups, but you will not be identified in these results. Researchers will at all times comply with the Tri-Council ethical guidelines for research with human participants. The information will be used to write reports, provide statistical information and to prepare presentations. You will not be identified in any way as these reports and other public documents will always refer to groups of people, never to one person. We will share anonymized (i.e., no personal identifiers) and aggregate data in reports to our funders, the CIHR Centre for REACH Nexus and the CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network.

Voluntary Participation

This study is completely voluntary. If you decide not to do it, it won't affect how you are treated by any health, treatment or social agencies. If you take part in the study, you can stop at any time and you will not lose anything. You don't have to answer questions you don't want to answer. If you decide to stop doing the survey completing it, you can let the study team know if you wish to withdraw your responses from the study.

Who can I contact if I have any questions about the study?

If you have any questions or need further information with respect to this study, you may contact Ben Klassen, Research Manager at the Community-Based Research Centre at 604-568-7478 or at ben.klassen@cbrc.net. You can also review a copy of this consent form at any time by going to the Sex Now page of the CBRC website (https://www.cbrc.net/sex_now).

Who can I contact if I have a concern about my rights as a participant?

This research has been reviewed by the University of Victoria's Research Ethics Board and conforms to the standards of the Canadian Tri-Council Research Ethics guidelines. In addition, you may verify the ethical approval of this study, or raise any concerns you might have, by contacting the Human Research Ethics Office at the University of Victoria (250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca).

Consent Agreement

Do you acknowledge and agree to the conditions outlined above?

Yes

No [program skip to end of survey]

[At the end of the survey, participants will be asked whether they would like to join the CBRC mailing list]

Thank you for completing our survey! Before you go, we have a few questions about your interest in future CBRC studies.

Would you like to sign up for the Community-Based Research Centre mailing list? By clicking "Yes," you consent to receiving periodic updates from the Community-Based Research Centre, including notification of findings from this survey. Don't worry, you can unsubscribe at any time. You can also check out CBRC's [privacy policy](#) for more information on how your contact data is used.

- Yes, please sign me up for the CBRC mailing list!
- No thanks

If you would like, you can also choose to have your contact information used to recontact you about future GBT2Q+ health studies at CBRC. This is completely optional. Would you like to be recontacted about future studies?

- Yes
- No

If you selected "yes" to one or both of the above, please provide your name, email address, and the language you would like to receive emails in. We will solely use this contact information for the purposes outlined above.

- Full name:
- Email:
- Language preference
 - French
 - English

[at the end of the survey, participants will be able to opt-in or skip the HIV self-testing and Peer Navigation component of the study]

This section is about your optional participation in HIV self-testing and peer navigation.

Invitation to be part of the study

This study is being conducted by the Community-Based Research Centre, the University of Victoria, and the CIHR Centre for REACH Nexus. The study is called “Acceptability of Point-of-care HIV Testing Among Sexual & Gender Minoritized Men” and is about uptake and acceptability of HIV self-testing among gay, bisexual, trans, and queer men, and Two-Spirit and non-binary people (GBT2Q). Additional funding for the study was provided by the CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network. You are invited to participate in this study.

What is the study about?

The purpose of the study is to learn more about the preferences of GBT2Q people related to HIV self-testing. We also want to learn how effective Peer Navigators are at linking GBT2Q people to follow-up testing, prevention, and treatment services. Our findings will help improve future testing and Peer Navigation interventions for GBT2Q people.

What will I be asked to do?

If you agree to participate, the study team will ask you to complete an HIV self-test (a screening test for HIV). You can either choose to complete the test at the community venue you are recruited at (e.g., Pride event, bar) or can take your kit home and use it there. You will receive the result from your test. You will also be asked to complete a brief questionnaire on a tablet or your own device, which includes some questions about your preferences for HIV self-testing, your experience using the test kit, and preferences for other types of testing and linkage to care. Altogether, the survey and completion of the HIV self-test will take about 10 minutes to complete. If you would like, you will also be given a second HIV self-test, which you can either use yourself or give to a partner or friend. If you decide to give a self-test to someone else, please provide them with the recruitment card included with the HIV self-test and ensure that their decision to use the test is entirely voluntary.

A Peer Navigator (a member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community) will be available for additional support and will contact you at least once throughout the study. This support may include peer counselling or assistance in locating services for HIV testing, treatment, or prevention. A follow-up online survey will be emailed to you 3 months after you complete the first survey so that we can find out what services you have accessed after using the HIV self-test. The follow-up survey will take approximately 20 minutes.

Are there any risks involved?

Some of the questions we ask are personal. If you are upset by any question or feel uncomfortable at any time, please tell the study team. You may also skip any questions you do

not want to answer. If you like, a peer navigator can help you get support and refer you to an outreach worker or counsellor.

Completing an HIV self-test is optional. Pricking your finger for a blood sample can be uncomfortable. Many people do something similar to measure their blood sugar levels. You will receive instructions on how to safely provide a blood sample inside your test kit. Please read the instructions before you start. If you do not receive the instructions or if you have any questions, please ask a member of the research team. In rare cases, some people faint after pricking their finger or at the sight of their own blood. If you have had issues with needles or giving blood in the past, consider having another person support you while you collect your sample (e.g., by phone, over videocall). Or, do not do this portion of the study if fainting is a concern.

You may receive a reactive (preliminary positive) HIV result by completing the HIV self-test. This could be distressing to you. A reactive test means that you are presumed to have HIV, and we strongly recommend for your own health that you go for confirmatory testing. You will receive appropriate post-test counselling and referrals if this occurs. If you complete an HIV self-test at a community venue, there will be counsellors onsite who can help support you and refer you to relevant services. If you complete an HIV self-test at home, you can contact a trained Peer Navigator to discuss your results and get referrals to other testing, prevention, and/or treatment resources. The Peer Navigator will provide further information on how to reduce the risk of transmission and will be available for follow-up support by email, phone, and text.

If you choose to complete an HIV self-test in-person, you will receive a result at the venue. We will ensure that there is a private space available for you to test and receive your result without others seeing this. There is also a risk of COVID-19 transmission if you decide to use the test in-person. To minimize this risk, all study staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before engaging in any in-person activities. Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes will also be available. If you wish to further reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, you may wish to wear a face mask and practice physical distancing during your participation.

What are the benefits?

By participating, you are receiving a screening test for HIV. If you are interested, the study team will tell you where to go for HIV, hepatitis C, and other sexually transmitted infections testing and counselling. The study team can also refer you to a variety of health, treatment, and social services. By participating, you are also helping to generate data which will help to improve the health and well-being of GBT2Q people by providing researchers and community organizations with the information they need to improve access to HIV testing and linkage to care. You'll also get to access findings from the study online for free through the Community-Based Research Centre's website.

Is there compensation for participating?

You will receive a \$20 honorarium for completing the follow-up survey we will send you 3 months after you complete the initial Sex Now survey. Once you complete the follow-up survey,

honoraria will be processed within 30 business days (approximately 6 weeks). E-transfers by email will be sent from Community-Based Research Centre through the accounting software Plooto and cheques will be sent from the University of Victoria.

How will my personal information be protected?

The HIV self-test will be discarded after use and the discarded test kit will not be able to be linked to you. Neither your name nor any contact information will be put on the HIV self-testing kit. During the initial questionnaire, we will ask you to provide your name and contact information. This information will solely be used to facilitate participant follow-up for our Peer Navigators and to send you the follow-up questionnaires for this study. Although a name is required, you may choose to provide us with your everyday name, legal name, chosen name, or a fake name to further protect your privacy. We will be linking your data from Sex Now 2022 to limit repeating the same questions.

The information you provide in the survey and the results of the HIV self-testing will be treated according to privacy laws including the federal *Privacy Act* and the Federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA). The contact information that you provide to us (name, address, email and phone number) will only be used to contact you for follow-up and provide you with honoraria, and will not be included in the final dataset for the study. Only essential research team members will have access to your personal information. Peer Navigators will not see the answers to your questionnaire. If you provide personal health information to them, they will abide by the confidentiality requirements for health information of the province you reside in. All contact information will be destroyed six months following the end of the study. All data will be stored on an encrypted, password-protected Canadian server at the University of Victoria.

Who are you sharing data and findings with?

The information that you provide (which does not include your name or any contact information) will be shared with the research team at the Community-Based Research Centre, the University of Victoria, and the CIHR Centre for REACH Nexus. The data collected may be shared with other researchers who are interested in the health of GBT2Q people at a later date. This is a required component of the study and your consent to participate includes this future use of your data. The information will be used to write reports, provide statistical information and to prepare presentations. You will not be identified in any way as these reports and other public documents will always refer to groups of people, never to one person to minimize the risk of an individual being identified based on a combination of responses (e.g., age, gender, geography). Researchers will at all times comply with the Tri-Council ethical guidelines for research with human participants.

Voluntary participation

This study is completely voluntary. If you decide not to do it, it won't affect how you are treated by any health, treatment or social agencies. If you take part in the study, you can stop at any time and you will not lose anything. You don't have to answer questions you don't want to

answer. If you decide to stop doing the survey while completing it, you can let the study team know if you wish to withdraw your responses from the study. If you provide your name, you can request to have your data removed at any time up until 6 months after the study ends, at which time we will permanently delete all identifiers (names, contact information) from the dataset.

Who can I contact if I have any questions about the study?

If you have any questions or need further information with respect to this study, you may contact Chris Draenos, National STBBI Testing and Linkage Implementation Manager at the Community-Based Research Centre at 416-803-4304 or at chris.draenos@cbrc.net. You can also review a copy of this consent form at any time by going to the Sex Now page of the CBRC website (https://www.cbrc.net/sex_now).

Who can I contact if I have a concern about my rights as a participant?

This research has been reviewed by the University of Victoria's Research Ethics Board and conforms to the standards of the Canadian Tri-Council Research Ethics guidelines. In addition, you may verify the ethical approval of this study, or raise any concerns you might have, by contacting the Human Research Ethics Office at the University of Victoria (250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca).

Consent Agreement

Do you acknowledge and agree to the conditions outlined above?

Yes

No [program skip to end of survey]

Please provide your preferred name and a method to contact you (phone or email). As part of the study, a peer navigator will contact you at least once to offer support with peer counselling or assistance in locating services for HIV testing, treatment, or prevention. Only provide the information you'd like us to use. At least one method of contact is required. Although a name is required, you may choose to provide us with your everyday name, legal name, chosen name, or a fake name to further protect your privacy.

Name:

Email:

Phone number to call:

Phone number to text:

A member of the research team will contact you approximately 1 week after you receive your HIV self-test kit(s) as part of the study. Please indicate when you prefer to be contacted. Select all that apply.

	Weekday (Mon-Fri)	Weekend (Sat/Sun)
Contact me in the morning (10 am – 1 pm)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contact me in the afternoon (1 pm – 5 pm)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contact me in the evening (5 pm – 8 pm)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If we cannot reach you by phone, can we leave a voicemail indicating we are calling from “CBRC”?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How would you like to receive your \$20 for completing the follow-up survey? Choose one of the following. Honoraria will be processed within 30 business days (approximately 6 weeks). E-transfers by email will be sent from Community-Based Research Centre through the accounting software Plooto and cheques will be sent from the University of Victoria.

- ☐ By Interac e-transfer via E-MAIL using the email address provided above
- ☐ By cheque using the NAME AND ADDRESS from my shipping information provided below

If you requested **a cheque**, please provide your full address and legal name that your bank will recognize. This information will not be used for any other purpose or shared for any other reason.

- Full Name:
- Street Address:
- City:
- Province/Territory:
- Postal Code: