

# PrEP



## What is PrEP?

PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) is medication that is over 99% effective at preventing HIV before an exposure. It is available in a pill form and an every other month injectable form.

## Who is it for?

PrEP is for anyone who is sexually active and at risk for HIV. You should consider PrEP if:

- You have multiple sexual partners
- You don't know your partners HIV status
- Your HIV+ partner is not virally suppressed

The requirements to take PrEP are:

- Weighing over 77 pounds
- HIV negative
- If you have Hepatitis B, you can still take PrEP, but it is recommended to speak to your doctor about starting and stopping PrEP because PrEP can treat Hep-B and sudden stops can cause flare ups

## Why would someone take PrEP?

A person takes PrEP to prevent HIV infection. That's it. That's all. Some people say it increases the pleasure they feel during sex because they don't have to worry.

## When and how should someone take it?

- If you choose oral PrEP, then you should take it daily, as prescribed.
- Injectable PrEP is done at the clinic every other month. This can be an option if pills aren't your thing, or you need a different method for protection.

## What should medical providers monitor?

Your provider should check kidney function and a complete blood count every 3 months along with HIV tests.

## Where can I get PrEP and learn more about it?

- Ask your primary care provider or PRIDE provider about PrEP.
- Call 216-778-8305 to schedule an appointment with a MetroHealth Infectious Disease specialist.
- Contact the Cleveland Department of Public Health.
- Visit [Pop2Block.org](http://Pop2Block.org) to learn more.
- Things to keep in mind:
- Keep getting tested for STIs every 3 months, even if you don't have symptoms. The most common STI symptoms are no symptoms.
- PrEP does NOT protect against any other STI except HIV. Ask about DoxyPEP for additional protection.

connect @metrohealthcle



**MyChart**  
metrohealth.org/mychart