



INFORMATION SHEET

WHO IS DOING THIS STUDY?

#GotBlood2Give / #DuSangÀDonner is carried out by a small team of researchers in Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, and Toronto. Team members are listed on the last page of the consent form. The principal investigator of the study is: **Dr. OmiSoore Dryden**, Researcher-In-Residence, Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN)

WHAT IS THE STUDY ABOUT?

The goal of this research project is to change and update the donor questionnaire by removing discriminatory barriers. This will allow for an increase in participation from low risk gay, bisexual, trans men who have sex with men. We focus on African, Caribbean and Black folks who are:

- 17 and over and reside in the greater Halifax/Ottawa/Toronto area
- 18 and over and reside in the greater Montréal area

WHAT YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO DO?

Taking part in this study is totally voluntary. You must be either African, Caribbean, or Black who self-identifies as male, genderqueer, and/or a man who has sex with men and lives in one of the following cities: Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, or Toronto. If you choose to participate in the **#GotBlood2Give / #DuSangÀDonner** study, you will be asked to do the following:

- Complete a short demographic and health practices survey, which consists of a range of questions about you (e.g., your age, ethno-racial origin), and your sexual practices (e.g., condom use, who you have sex with), your place of birth (e.g., where you were born)
- Complete the **#GotBlood2Give / #DuSangÀDonner** Survey (in electronic format), which consists of a range of questions about your experiences with blood donation
- Completing the blood donation questionnaire
- HIV test
- If you agree to take part in this study, you will be asked if you wish (voluntarily) to be contacted to take part in an in-depth interview at a later date

Completing the above surveys will take about 75 minutes.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

Taking part in this research study is completely voluntary. This means you may refuse to participate, refuse to answer any questions or withdraw from the study at any time. Should you choose to withdraw, we will do our best to remove your individual information from the study. However, because the survey is anonymous (i.e. you will not be asked to provide your name, initials or birth date), we may not be able to remove your data entirely.

USE OF INFORMATION & CONFIDENTIALITY

All information you provide during the research will be kept private and anonymous. Your name will not appear in any report or publication of the research. We will use a study code on all the data we collect from you. This unique code will be used to record your survey and HIV test data. Electronic data generated by the survey will be stored on a secure server (RedCap). The survey can only be accessed on an encrypted and password protected computer or electronic device (ipad). HIV tests will be completely anonymous. No one can trace the result of your test back to you.

RISKS & DISCOMFORT

This study is not expected to cause you or others any harm. However, you may experience some unexpected emotion or discomfort while you are completing the surveys. If you feel upset during the survey, and you wish to express your discomfort, please feel free to approach any member of the research team. A sterile needle will be used for the HIV test and there is a very small chance of bruising, pain or infection at the site of penetration. You may also refer to the “Community Resources” sheet.

BENEFITS

Although you may not have any direct benefit from taking part in this study, your ideas and sharing may help us develop effective programs and policies to improve the blood donor questionnaire and blood donor policy for ACB MSM in Canada

COMPENSATION

You will receive a **\$40** honorarium for taking part in **#GotBlood2Give / #DuSangÀDonner** survey. You will keep this honorarium even if you decide to withdraw from the study at any point in time.

INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS AS A PARTICIPANT

If you have questions about the research in general or about your role in the study, please feel free to contact **Dr. OmiSoore Dryden**, Principal Investigator, Researcher-In-Residence, OHTN
Telephone: 416-642-6486 ext 2249
Email: odryden@ohln.on.ca

The University of Toronto Research Ethics Board

Telephone: 416-946-3273
Email: ethics.review@utoronto.ca

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Greater Toronto Area	Montréal
<p><u>Toronto Distress Centre:</u> 24-hour distress line offering confidential emotional support, crisis intervention, suicide prevention and linkage to emergency help when necessary, access to interpreters offered in 151 languages, and TTY service for hearing impaired. Call 416-408-4357 (416-408-HELP).</p> <p><u>Mental Health Helpline:</u> Toll free: 1-866-531-2600</p> <p><u>The LGBT Youthline:</u> A toll-free Ontario-wide peer-support phone line for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, queer and questioning young people. Service is available Sunday to Friday, 4:00pm – 9:30pm Toll free: 1-888-687-9688</p>	<p>L'Association québécoise de prévention du suicide A 24/7 distress line serving Québec Call: 1-866-277-3553 (1-866-Appelle)</p> <p>ATQ (Aide aux transexuels et transexuelles du Québec): Offers a listening line for transgendered individuals in Québec. Call: 514-254-9038</p> <p><u>Project 10 (Projet 10):</u> Promotes personal, social, sexual, and mental well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, and questioning youth and adults ages 14-25. Offers a listening line on Monday to Thursday from 12pm to 6pm Call: 514-989-4584</p>
Ottawa and Greater Capital Region	Halifax
<p><u>Distress Centre Ottawa and Region:</u> 24/7/365 Crisis Line providing unbiased and non-judgemental support. All calls are confidential. English only service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distress Line City of Ottawa and City of Gatineau: 613-238-3311 • Distress Line MRC La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, MRC Les Collines-de-l'Outaouais, MRC Papineau, and MRC Pontiac: 1-866-676-1080. <p><u>The LGBT Youthline:</u> A toll-free Ontario-wide peer-support phone line for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, queer and questioning young people. Service is available Sunday to Friday, 4:00pm – 9:30pm Toll free: 1-888-687-9688</p>	<p><u>Eastern Regional Help Line:</u> Crisis line operating 7 days/week from 6pm to 12 am (midnight) serving eastern region of Nova Scotia. Call: 1-800-957-9995 or 902-562-4357 (902-562-HELP)</p> <p><u>Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team (MHMCT):</u> Provide intervention and short-term crisis management for children, youth and adults experiencing a mental health crisis. Offer confidential, non-judgemental and respectful telephone intervention throughout the Capital District and mobile response in areas served by Halifax Regional Police including Halifax, Dartmouth and Bedford. Available 9am to 5pm, 7 days/week. Call toll-free 1-888-429-8167 or 902-429-8167</p>

National Resources

Kids Help Phone:

For youth aged 20 and under. Kids and adolescents can call 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Call: 1-800-668-6868

Trans Lifeline:

This line is primarily for transgender people experiencing a crisis. This includes people who may be struggling with their gender identity and are not sure that they are transgender. While our goal is to prevent self-harm, we welcome the call of any transgender person in need. We will do our very best to connect them with services that can help them meet that need.

Schedule is available at <http://hotline.translifeline.org>

Call: 1-877-330-6366

INFORMATION ON HIV TRANSMISSION

HIV can be concentrated enough in blood, semen, vaginal fluids, anal fluids or breast milk to allow for transmission when exposed to the mucous membranes of the other person (inside the anus, vagina, mouth and throat).

Only 5 body fluids can contain enough HIV to infect someone:

1. Blood
2. Semen (including pre-cum)
3. Rectal fluid,
4. Vaginal fluid,
5. Breast milk

HIV can only get passed when one of these fluids from a person with HIV gets into the bloodstream of another person—through broken skin, the opening of the penis or the wet linings of the body, such as the vagina, rectum or foreskin.

HIV cannot pass through healthy, unbroken skin.

The two main ways that HIV can get passed between you and someone else are:

1. Through sex,
2. By sharing needles or other equipment to inject drugs (including steroids or hormones)

HIV can also be passed:

By sharing needles or ink to get a tattoo, by sharing needles or jewellery to get a body piercing, by sharing acupuncture needles, to a fetus or baby during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding