

Tips for Foreign Nationals in Taiwan to Prevent HIV Infection

practice safe sex, get regular HIV tests, detect and treat early



A Real Case

A 50-year-old migrant worker who had been employed in Taiwan for more than 3 years sought medical attention due to discomfort and fever. His condition deteriorated and was in coma due to brain infection. He was admitted to the ICU and was tested positive for HIV infection. His family at his home country were worried about his condition but could not take care of him from afar.

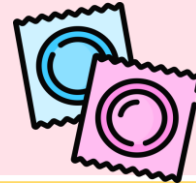
Before arriving in Taiwan for work or study, you should consider getting an HIV test in your country

- It is recommended to receive an HIV test at your home country before arriving in Taiwan for work or study.
- If the test result is HIV positive, it is recommended that you stay in your home country for treatment until your condition is stabilized.

Prevention for HIV during stay in Taiwan and Recommendations for HIV Testing

Practice safe sex

Use **condoms** and **water-based lubricants** throughout sexual intercourse.



Recommendations for getting tested for HIV

- Sexually active: get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care
- Unprotected sexual intercourse: be tested at least once a year
- For those at higher risk or their sexual partners (e.g. STI, multiple sexual partners, drug use, and sharing needles or diluent): get tested every 3–6 months

If you have been diagnosed with HIV, get treatment!



- If diagnosed with HIV infection, working in Taiwan will remain legally allowed. Employers are not permitted to terminate employment or deport individuals based on their HIV status.
- The Taiwan government does not offer foreigners HIV treatment subsidies for the first 2 years. The treatment costs approximately NT\$200,000 (about US\$7,000) each year. However, those who have records of self-paid HIV medication in Taiwan and join Taiwan's national health insurance will be able to apply for the HIV treatment subsidies after 2 years of medication in Taiwan.
- Since August 2024, the Taiwan CDC has been launching “**the Support Program for Foreign HIV Patients Receiving Medication Within 2 Years in Taiwan**” to subsidize those who are economically disadvantaged, pregnant, or experiencing other emergencies (such as life-threatening dangers if they do not receive immediate treatment). Eligible and approved persons can obtain free HIV treatment drugs as well as HIV viral load and CD4 lymphocyte testing. (The plan is to continue until the donated medicines are used up)

HIV Prevention: Education, Testing, and Treatment Resources



HIV & STI Health
Education
(Multilingual)



Anonymous
HIV Testing



HIV Self-Testing



Support Program for
Foreign Nationals
Living with HIV in
Taiwan