

# What is HIV?



HIV is a **virus** that can make you sick.

Viruses are small, infectious particles that can enter cells in your body. They can change the way cells function and even destroy them.

The flu, chicken pox and hepatitis are common viruses. Some can weaken your immune system. HIV is one of those viruses.

Your **immune system** protects your body by fighting off infections.

Your immune system is made up of many different cells that work together to protect your body against illness, including infections and certain cancers.

You can get more information here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/whatishiv.html>.

