



One of the new HIV test vending machines.

Vending machine HIV tests roll out

Zoe Smith

More Australians will have access to free HIV self-testing kits through a national rollout of vending machines across the country in universities and nightclubs.

In a groundbreaking move to help break down barriers to testing and address social stigma around HIV, Sydney-based Atomo Diagnostics is now supplying thousands of self-test kits to sexual health programs across the nation.

The concept of the HIV test is similar to that of a Covid rapid antigen test, but works with a finger-prick test to get a blood sample.

The national rollout is expanding, with more vending machines to be installed at universities in NSW, South Australia and Victoria.

The vending machines have also been rolled out in Queensland, with a particular focus on those living in remote communities.

In universities, the federal government-funded tests are free for all users, Atomo Diagnostics chief executive John Kelly said.

"The reason for that is that the government has recognised that cost, particularly for young people, could be a barrier to use, and they want to make sure that there's more testing and cost isn't a kind of barrier to uptake of testing," he said. "So it is subsidised and free to the user."

In 2023, it was estimated that there were 30,000 people with HIV in Australia, according to Health Equity Matters.

Mr Kelly said one of the benefits of the tests is that they are "quick, pretty simple, easy to do and can be done at home".



Barbarians storm the merchants of Venice

US reality star Kim Kardashian boards a taxi boat in Venice for the wedding of Lauren Sanchez, and Jeff Bezos, insets. Pictures: Andrea Pattaro, Luca Bruno, Stefano Rellandini

Mara Siegler and Antoinette Bueno

Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez are ready to tie the knot.

The couple arrived in Venice, Italy, on Thursday – just days before they planned to say "I do" in a lavish wedding.

The former journalist, 55, and the Amazon founder, 61, were photographed getting out of their helicopter in style and being helped into a water taxi.

Sánchez looked chic in a sleeveless black dress, sky-high stilettos and sunglasses, while Bezos wore white pants and a black polo.

The two were clearly in good spirits, smiling and waving at onlookers.

Sánchez was also snapped with a big smile on her face as she was being escorted into a tent by security.

The couple and their guests are staying at the ultra luxe Aman Venice.

Wedding guests including

Gondolas pass by the Aman luxury hotel in Venice.



Kardashian matriarch Kris Jenner's boyfriend Corey Gamble, Jeff Bezos' adoptive father Miguel "Mike" Bezos and billionaire businessman Barry Diller were also snapped on their way to the festivities.

A fleet of multimillion-dollar superyachts has descended on Venice for the wedding, including Michael Jordan's \$A177m megayacht, M' Brace.

The happy couple's arrival party had to be moved to a

more remote part of the city of water following protests and security concerns.

Reuters reported that a wedding party for the power couple was "moved to an isolated, less accessible part of the lagoon city on security concerns and to prevent the risk of protests."

They had reportedly originally planned to hold the event in Cannaregio, but changed plans in light of protests held by groups under the

banner of "No space for Bezos," and anti-tourism protesters, who threatened to throw themselves into canals and block streets to shut down the wedding.

The couple have rented the entire Aman Venice for the stay. A source told The New York Post's Page Six that ahead of the couple's arrival, "10 or 12 security guys were doing a sweep" through the luxury property on Tuesday.

A source said the scene in the lobby was "chaotic".

An insider said, "Guests who had previously booked [at] the hotel for Wednesday night a long time in advance were booted once Bezos rented the entire space a few months ago."

The source said that, "Those guests are being moved to other hotels" and that, "Aman is paying for their rooms in addition to comping a night of their stay and offering upgrades."

But apparently "some are griping that they have to pack

up, take transport [Aman provided] and unpack again".

The hotel did not comment.

Employees at the spot were talking about festivities, and apparently the spa workers were feeling "harried" as they prepped for the "loads of extra work they have ahead from demanding A-list guests".

Security is part of the Amazon billionaire's daily life. Bezos reportedly spent \$US1.6m (\$2.5m) in 2023 on personal security.

The couple have reportedly invited about 200 guests to their nuptials, which were expected to kick off Thursday and end on Saturday with a ceremony at a secret location.

Sources with "direct knowledge" told TMZ one of the theme nights will be a Great Gatsby-themed cocktail party.

There are rumours the rite may take place at the historic Church of the Abbey of Misericordia, or at the Arsenale, a vast shipyard complex dating back centuries, to when the city was a naval powerhouse.

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