

# HIV 101

Without treatment, HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) can make a person very sick and even cause death. Learning the basics about HIV can keep you healthy and prevent transmission.

## HIV Can Be Transmitted By



Sexual Contact



Sharing Needles to Inject Drugs



Mother to Baby during pregnancy, birth, or breastfeeding

## HIV Is **NOT** Transmitted By



Air or Water



Saliva, Sweat, Tears, or Closed-Mouth Kissing



Insects or Pets



Sharing Toilets, Food, or Drinks

## Protect Yourself From HIV

- Get tested at least once or more often if you are at risk.
- Use condoms the right way every time you have anal or vaginal sex.
- Choose activities with little to no risk like oral sex.
- Limit your number of sex partners.
- Don't inject drugs, or if you do, don't share needles or works.



- If you are at very high risk for HIV, ask your health care provider if pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is right for you.
- If you think you've been exposed to HIV within the last 3 days, ask a health care provider about post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) right away. PEP can prevent HIV, but it must be started within 72 hours.
- Get tested and treated for other STDs.



## Keep Yourself Healthy And Protect Others If You Are Living With HIV

- Find HIV care. It can keep you healthy and greatly reduce your chance of transmitting HIV.
- Take your medicines the right way every day.
- Stay in HIV care.



- Tell your sex or drug-using partners that you are living with HIV. Use condoms the right way every time you have sex, and talk to your partners about PrEP.
- Get tested and treated for other STDs.



For more information please visit [www.cdc.gov/hiv](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv)