



QUESTION AND ANSWER SHEET

Question	Answer	Possible Prevention Strategies ¹
Will injecting drugs give you HIV?	Only if the needle or syringe has been contaminated with HIV. Injecting drug users should always use a clean needle and syringe and should try to reduce the number of people with whom they share equipment.	Harm reduction, education, treatment/prevention of drug/alcohol abuse, clean syringes (needle exchange programs), vaccine, microbicide, PrEP
If you are fit and healthy, can you become infected with HIV?	It does not matter how healthy or unhealthy you are; if you have unprotected sex with someone who is HIV infected or share needles with an injecting drug user who is HIV infected, you may become infected.	Harm reduction, education, male and female condoms and other barrier methods, medical male circumcision, vaccine, microbicide, PrEP
Can married people become infected with HIV?	This depends on the partners involved, what they did before they met, whether either has had unprotected sex outside of the marriage, or injects drugs using contaminated equipment. Marriage by itself offers no guarantees of safety or protection from HIV. In fact, marriage is the number one risk factor for HIV infection among women globally.	All
Are women safe from HIV as long as they use a contraceptive?	Only condoms offer women protection against HIV, and even condoms cannot offer complete protection since they must be used correctly and consistently every time a person has sex. Other forms of contraception do not offer protection from HIV.	Harm reduction, education, male and female condoms and other barrier methods, medical male circumcision, vaccine, microbicide, PrEP
If you have sex with people who look healthy, can you become infected with HIV?	Most people with HIV look perfectly healthy. Appearance is a useless way of assessing risk.	All
Is unprotected anal sex between two men more risky than anal sex between a man and a woman?	Unprotected anal sex is equally risky whether it takes place between two men or a man and a woman. This is because the tissue that lines the rectum is only one cell thick, making it very fragile and prone to tearing.	Harm reduction, education, male and female condoms and other barrier methods.

¹ Note, the prevention strategies above include those currently implemented and those that are still undergoing research and not yet available to the public.



	<p>Condoms are extremely effective against HIV, but they must be used correctly and consistently every time a person has sex to prevent HIV transmission. Use a lubricant that is water based; oil-based lubricants can weaken the condom. When buying condoms, check the “sell by” date.</p>	
<p>If you only have sex with people you know, can you become infected with HIV?</p>	<p>Knowing someone well offers no reliable guide to whether or not they are infected with HIV.</p>	<p>All</p>

