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HIV/AIDS

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What is the HIV Virus?

AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, which is a fancy way of saying that your body's natural army for fighting off germs is not working correctly. HIV/AIDS is spread to other people by contact with sexual fluids or blood of an infected person, so if infected blood or sexual fluid gets into your body, you can become infected. This usually happens by either having **sexual** intercourse with an infected person or by sharing needles used to inject drugs with an infected person. People can also become infected by, being born to a mother who has HIV.

HIV/AIDS CANNOT be caught by kissing, hugging or shaking hands with an infected person, and it can't be transmitted by sneezes, doors handles or dirty glasses.



What are the effects of this virus, and how do I stay safe?

The effects of HIV/AIDS can cause other diseases and infections to make your body very sick. There is no cure for HIV/AIDS but there are medicines to slow the process. The best way to stay safe is to NOT use drugs and to stay abstinent, (not have sexual intercourse). These are to two biggest risk factors to getting HIV/AIDS and they are both preventable. HIV/AIDS cuts a person life span almost in half and can be a devastating illness. So, BE SAFE AND SMART!!!

