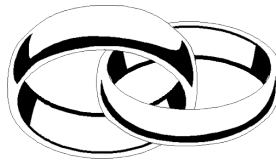


# GETTING MARRIED?



## GET THE FACTS ABOUT HIV:

- Anyone can be infected with HIV. It doesn't matter if you are gay or straight, male or female.

HIV is spread through infected body fluids. These body fluids include:

- Blood
- Semen
- Vaginal secretions
- Breast milk
- Anal secretions
- Any other body fluids that have blood in them

You get HIV because of what you do, not who you are. You can get HIV through:

- Having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with an infected partner
- Sharing needles to shoot drugs, make tattoos, pierce body parts
- Mother to child during the birth process or breast feeding

You can't tell by looking if someone has HIV.

- There are no obvious signs that a person has HIV
- An HIV test is the only way to know for sure
- A person can pass HIV to you even if he or she doesn't look sick.

*Knowing your HIV status and being under proper care can reduce the chance of your baby becoming HIV positive to an almost 0% chance.*

*Consider HIV testing for you and your partner if either of you has ever had sex, shared needles or other drug equipment or taken part in any other risky behavior.*

### How does an HIV test work?

- The HIV test looks for signs of HIV in your body (antibodies).
- A positive or reactive test result means you have been infected with HIV
- A negative or non-reactive test results may mean you are not infected.
  - A negative test result may also mean not enough time has passed after infection for signs (antibodies) to be found in your body
  - It can take up to 30 days for signs (antibodies) to show up in your body. In rare cases, it can take up to 3 months.
  - An HIV test in most county health departments is free or very low cost.

*If you are HIV positive and pregnant - or thinking about becoming pregnant, ask your doctor what you can do to reduce the risk of your baby becoming HIV positive.*

## WHAT ABOUT CONDOMS?

- Using a latex or polyurethane condom every time you have sex until you are sure that you and your partner do not have HIV.
- You may need to be retested if either of you took part in any risky behavior since the last test.
- Condoms are not 100% effective (and some STD's\* can be spread, even with a condom). But when used properly, condoms can help protect you and your partner.

*\*STD's are sexually transmitted diseases*

*Ask your healthcare provider about  
**PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis)***

*A medication taken every day to help prevent the transmission of HIV.*

#### **For anal and vaginal sex:**

- Put the condom on as soon as the penis is hard. Do this before any vaginal, anal, or oral contact.
- Hold the tip of the condom. Unroll it to the base of the penis. Make sure there is no air in the tip.
- Use a water based lubricant for vaginal and anal sex.
- Do not use any oils, petroleum jelly, lotions, or vaginal products that have oil. These can make latex condoms break.
- Pull out right after "coming." Hold on to the condom as you pull out.

*Not having sex is the only sure way to avoid getting HIV through sex.*

#### **For oral sex:**

- Use an unlubricated latex condom for mouth to penis contact.
- Use a barrier, such as a latex square, for mouth to vagina or mouth to anus contact.

Do not make yourself or your partner bleed:

- Consider other ways to show love.

#### **DO NOT USE DRUGS**

- If you use drugs, get help to stop
- Until you stop, Never share needles or other drug "works"
- Clean your drug equipment with water, bleach, and more water – before and after each use.
- Using alcohol or other drugs can cause you to have sex without using a condom

#### **HELP IS ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY**

To find out where to get an HIV test or for more information, call:

- Your doctor or a local health department
- Georgia HIV Resource Hub
  - <https://www.gacapus.com/>
- The Georgia HIV/STD Information Line
  - 1-800-551-2728

#### **NOTE:**

*This fact sheet is not a substitute for the advice of a qualified healthcare provider.*

**BE SAFE. START YOUR MARRIAGE RIGHT!**

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