

Teachers' Notes – FriendPlace – Cameron P

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Say your bit ...

Completing an equal opportunities form is not compulsory.

Discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation is illegal.

Gay men who have unprotected sex (sex without a condom) have a higher risk of contracting HIV than heterosexual people having unprotected sex. This is because there is a higher prevalence of HIV in the gay population.

Quiz

You can get HIV by eating food prepared by someone who's living with HIV. Vote now: Yes/No

No. HIV cannot be transmitted this way.

The HIV virus is quite fragile and cannot survive for long outside the body.

There have never been any cases of people being infected with HIV by eating food prepared by a person living with HIV.

Quiz

Write down all the routes that HIV can be transmitted from one person to another:

Unprotected sex - the HIV virus can live in sexual fluids such as semen; pre-ejaculate; vaginal fluids; anal fluids. It can pass from these fluids through cells in the other person's vaginal or anal walls, or through cells in the tip of the penis, or through damaged blood vessels.

Blood to blood. The HIV virus can live in blood and can be transmitted by:

sharing needles for injecting drugs with a person who is HIV positive

blood or organ transplant where the donor is HIV positive (not in the UK – blood and organs have been screened since 1985)

Tattoo needles if standard precautions are not taken and a person living with HIV has previously used the needle.

Mother to child (if the mother is living with HIV)

in the womb

during childbirth

via breastmilk

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Say your bit ...

Nick : *'Extra careful with gays cos of the risk... 'aids and that... give them a miss... More than i bargained for...'*

Nick is prejudiced against both people living with HIV and gay people because of his ignorance of the facts. Know the facts about HIV!

Shona: *'There's no risk'*

Correct – there's no risk of HIV transmission through working in a bakers, if the standard health and safety procedures are followed.

Quiz

Someone living with HIV can legally get a job in a bakers or food outlet. Vote now: Yes/No

Yes. There are no jobs where a person would be refused employment because of being HIV positive. The only jobs where there would be special requirements for a person living with HIV are certain healthcare professions, where they may need to avoid doing invasive procedures, eg a surgeon.

Generally, there is no legal obligation on employees to disclose they have HIV or to take a medical test for it. If an employee is known to have HIV, this information is strictly confidential and must not be passed on to anyone else without the employee's permission.

Quiz

People living with HIV are often discriminated against. Vote now: Yes/No

Yes.

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Say your bit ...

Cameron: *'loads of kisses – wouldn't that increase the risk?'*

No. There's absolutely no risk of contracting HIV via kissing an HIV positive person, or them kissing you, no matter how many times!

Quiz

It's sometimes possible to get HIV from kissing/snogging. Vote now: Yes/No

No. There's absolutely no risk of contracting HIV via kissing or snogging an HIV positive person.

Quiz

If a mother is on HIV treatment, the risk of HIV passing from a mother to her baby is:

Less than 1% if the mother is diagnosed and on treatment.

If a woman is HIV positive but not diagnosed or not on any treatment, the risk of HIV passing to her baby is about 25%.

All pregnant women in the UK are offered an HIV test as part of their antenatal care. Women can opt out if they wish. If they take the test and it comes back positive, a course of treatment can be put into place to prevent the baby becoming HIV positive.

Also, it is better for the mother to be diagnosed if she is HIV positive, as treatment and care are more successful the earlier a person is diagnosed.

Quiz

Roughly how many people are living with HIV in Scotland.

Between 5 and 6 thousand people are living with HIV in Scotland.

4087 of those have a confirmed HIV diagnosis.

The others (around another third) are HIV positive but are not yet diagnosed.

Quiz

It is estimated that in the UK about 30% of people who are HIV positive don't know they have it.

Yes.

About a third of the total number of people living with HIV are not yet diagnosed. So about two thirds of HIV positive people are diagnosed, and about one third are undiagnosed.

We know about the estimated number of HIV positive but undiagnosed people by testing of blood samples which are taken for other reasons. Part of the sample is 'anonymised' and 'unlinked' and then sent to be tested for HIV. The 'unlinking' means that the sample cannot be traced back to the individual, and the result is used for statistical purposes only, for example to define HIV prevalence and to monitor trends.

Since the surveys began in 1990, nearly ten million samples have been irreversibly unlinked and anonymised from patient identifying information and tested for HIV infection.