

Do You Know Your HIV Status?

WHAT IS HIV AND AIDS?

HIV is a virus that can make the body not to be able to fight infections. When HIV enters the body, the person with an HIV infection can get more sickness from ordinary germs. A person may have HIV for a long time before they get really sick. When the sicknesses start showing, then the person has AIDS.

HOW CAN A PERSON GET HIV?

HIV can only be passed from one person to another by the following ways:

- By having sex with someone who has HIV without using a condom.
- By using a needle that was used by someone else who has HIV.
- By receiving the blood of someone who has HIV, like in a clinic.
- A big belly woman with HIV can pass it to her baby when she is pregnant; when she is giving birth, or through taytay water.

PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT AT RISK

- These days, before taking blood from one person to give it to another person, the doctor people can test the blood for HIV. Plenty people do not get HIV from taking blood.
- Also, a big belly woman can take medicine to stop her from giving her baby HIV. Many babies do not get HIV this way.

PEOPLE WHO ARE AT RISK

- The most common way people get HIV in Liberia is by having sex without using a condom, including man and woman business, and man and man having sex.
- People who have many girlfriends or boyfriends may have some of their boyfriends or girlfriends who have HIV and can give them HIV.
- It is also easy for people who have sores on their private parts to get HIV because the sores can easily catch and pass HIV to them.

- People who can use drugs can sometimes share needles with each other, and many of them get HIV this way.



Can you tell which person is HIV positive?

The only way to know is with an HIV test.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF SOMEONE HAS HIV?

The only way to know if someone has HIV is by doing an HIV test at the clinic or hospital. Some people think they can tell whether someone has HIV based on how they look. If someone looks healthy or attractive, they may still have HIV because it can take a long time before the disease turns to AIDS and the person start to appear sick.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOU COULD HAVE HIV?

If you know you have been doing any of things listed above that can give people HIV, you should go to the nearest clinic or hospital to get tested. The test will tell you whether you have HIV or not.

BENEFITS OF KNOWING YOUR HIV STATUS SOON

If you are tested HIV positive, the doctor people will give you free counseling, free HIV medicine and other health care services. The sooner you start this treatment, the longer you will remain healthy and able to live like any other person.



A person with HIV can live a healthy life for a long time

If they get tested and start treatment early

WHAT IS HIV?

ARE YOU AT RISK?

HOW DO YOU KNOW YOUR STATUS?

Questions & Answers about HIV



**Know Your
HIV Status
Get Tested**



**National
AIDS
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