

**If someone tells you he's +ve does it change the way you feel about him? /
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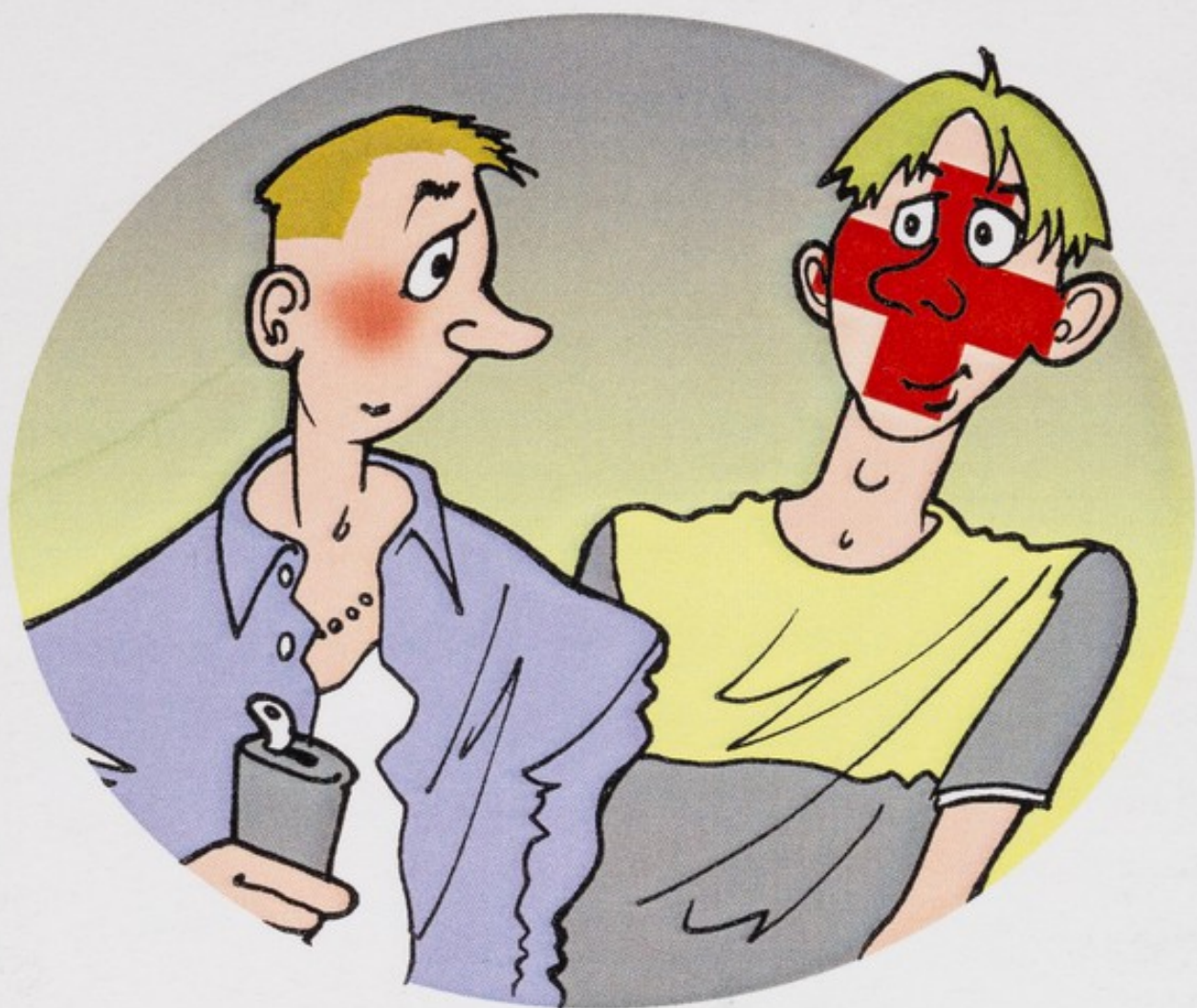


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If someone tells you he's

+ve

does it change the way
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Most of us know somebody who is HIV+. Not all of us are aware of it though.

Some +ve guys are happy to prance around in our +ve t-shirts and badges, seeing every reason to be completely open about our status. Most of us however choose not to tell all people all the time and some +ve people never tell anyone apart from their doctor.

So here's a quiz for those of you unsure about the social etiquette of dealing with the disclosure of somebody else's HIV status.

And if you think that you can't have a laugh about HIV and AIDS... get over yourself.

THE "I'M +VE AND..." QUIZ

1 An old flatmate comes round to see you to discuss his concerns that he may have HIV. Do you:

- a) send an e-mail to all your mutual friends with the title 'Hot Gossip'
- b) ask him to move back in, he's going to need you now
- c) bitterly regret the time you borrowed his bath towel
- d) talk to him about it over a bottle of your favourite tipple

2 You have invited a friend you know to be positive round to a dinner party. Towards the end of the dinner, do you:

- a) ask him loudly if he needs to take his medication
- b) bustle him into the kitchen so you can be sure he's taking his combo therapy
- c) tell him to take all his cutlery/glasses/crockery to the end of the garden and bury them
- d) pass round the after-dinner mints

3 Someone that you've been shagging on a regular basis tells you he's +ve. Do you:

- a) ask all your friends and family what to do - then ask all of his
- b) tell him that you'll look after him from now on
- c) burn your clothes, your bed and your whole flat before emigrating
- d) hold him, kiss him and let him know that it changes nothing

4 You go round to a friend's flat and notice that he has copies of the +ve press in his house. Do you:

- a) arrange them decoratively on the coffee table so they look nice and everyone can see them
- b) tidy the flat, cook dinner and gaze at him sympathetically all evening
- c) slam a biohazard warning on the door to warn his neighbours
- d) point out the cute guy on the cover

5 You happen to bump into a work acquaintance as he's leaving an HIV clinic. Do you:

- a) call up the office on your mobile and let them all know
- b) go over, hold his hand and ask him if he's OK
- c) phone your office and get his desk isolated
- d) say hello, then take the opportunity to bitch about your boss

6 You are out dancing at a club when a guy you really fancy drops his HIV medication all over the floor. Do you:

- a) say loudly 'Is that the latest combination therapy?'
- b) tell him that someone in his condition shouldn't be wasting his energy clubbing
- c) scream 'Don't touch him — he's got AIDS'
- d) help him pick them up, all the while giving him your best 'come and get me' grin

S C O R E C A R D

Mostly a — You may be cool around people who are +ve, but not everybody else will be. Most +ve people want to decide for ourselves who knows our HIV status. A bit more subtlety wouldn't go amiss.

Mostly b — You're sweet, you're caring and you treat people with HIV like we're made of china. We're not, you know.

Mostly c — We hope you realise that with an attitude like that, nobody is likely to disclose to you anyway.

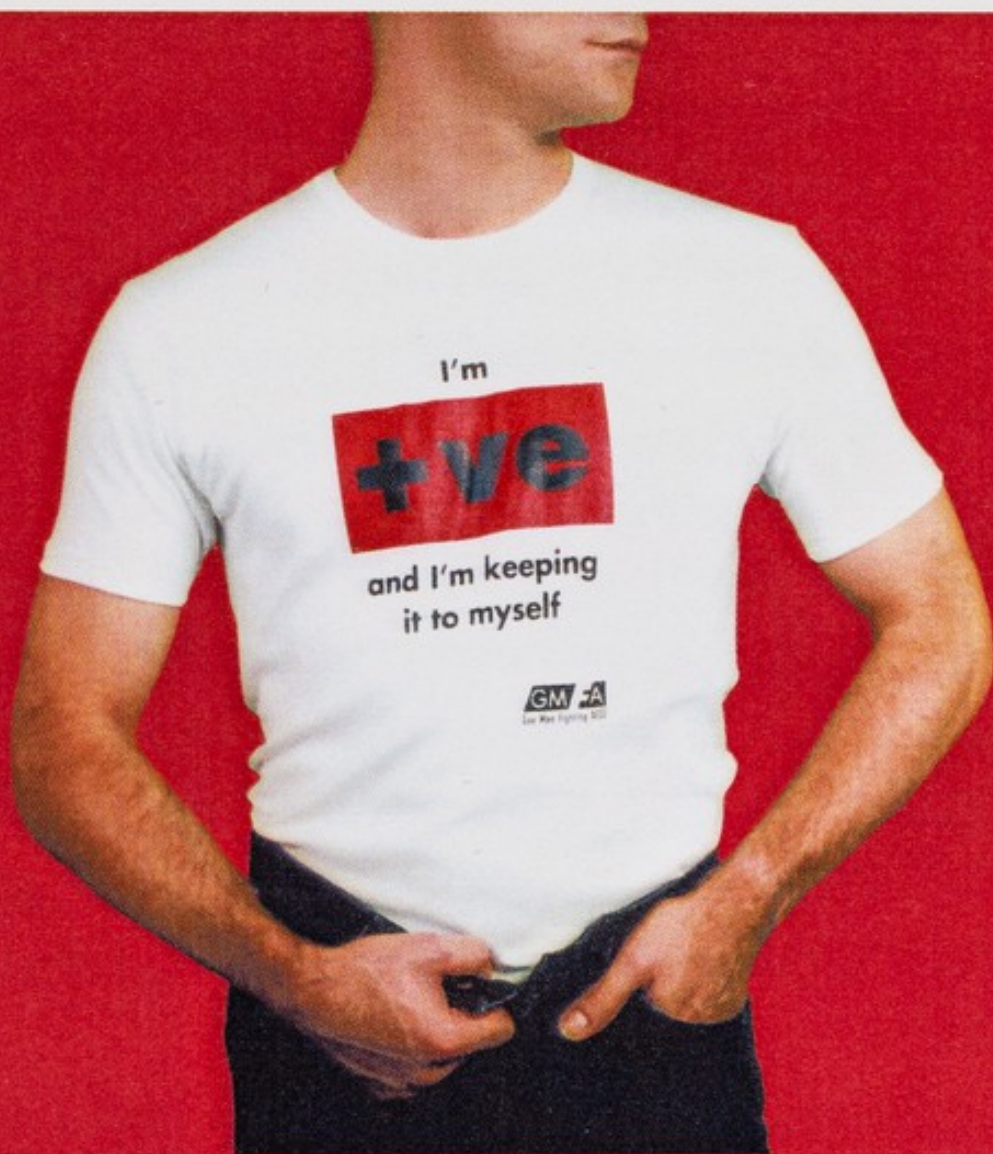
Mostly d — Clearly other people's HIV status isn't an issue for you. Good on you.

If you don't know many people who are HIV+ it can come as a bit of a shock when someone tells you that they are.

It may well change your expectations of the relationship, whether he's a lover, a friend or a potential shag.

Most of the time, the person who's doing the telling would like you to carry on as before. If you're his lover — carry on loving him. If you're his friend, keep on being his friend. If you're a potential shag, then shag.

If it does change the way you feel, then it's only fair that you let him know.



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