

AIDS / City of Edinburgh District Council, Environmental Health Department.

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Publication/Creation

[between 1988 and 1993??]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/w8tkqda8>

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CITY OF EDINBURGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

AIDS

AIDS is caused by a virus, HIV, which destroys the body's natural defences against disease. There is no cure or vaccine for AIDS.

HIV is most often spread by:-

- Sexual Intercourse
- Sharing needles or syringes.

You cannot catch HIV from cutlery, towels, toilet seats, sneezing, shaking hands, giving blood and kissing. Normal contact with an infected person is perfectly safe.

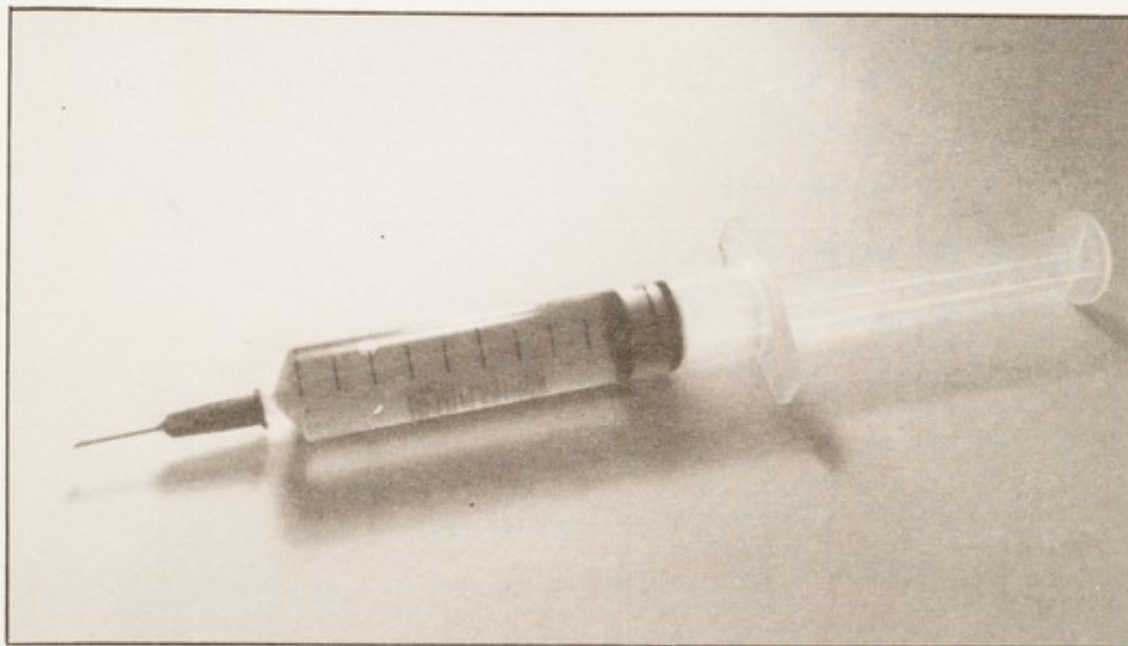
You cannot tell by looking at someone if they are infected with HIV. People with HIV often look and feel healthy, but they are infectious.

You can take care by:-

- getting to know your partner well
- choosing not to have intercourse
- using condoms to reduce the risk if you have intercourse
- never sharing needles and syringes

National AIDS Helpline (24 hours)
Freefone - 0800 567 123





DON'T TOUCH NEEDLES OR SYRINGES

IF YOU FIND A NEEDLE OR SYRINGE CONTACT THE
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, JOHNSTON TERRACE,
EDINBURGH. TEL NO. 031-225 2424 (24 HOURS SERVICE)

The chance of someone catching HIV from a discarded needle is very small. There have only been a few cases worldwide who have caught HIV from a needle-stick injury and all have been health care workers. There is, however, a risk of contracting other infections, such as Hepatitis B or tetanus, so if someone is pricked or injured with a dirty needle you should:

Immediately - encourage bleeding by squeezing the injured area
- wash area of wound under running water
- when bleeding stops, cover with a plaster.

As soon as possible - go to your GP, or if this is not possible that day,
- go to the nearest Accident & Emergency Department within 48 hours. Children (aged 12 or under) should be taken to the Casualty Department at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children.