HIV 101

5 HIV Transmission Fluids

- 1. **Blood** (highest virus concentration)
- 2. **Semen and Pre-Cum** (HIV not in sperm)
- 3. **Rectal Fluid** (mucous lining rectum walls)
- 4. Vaginal Fluid
- 5. **Breast Milk** (lowest virus concentration) (not a risk for adults; only infants)

How You Can Get HIV

- 1. Condomless anal, vaginal, and oral sex
- 2. Sharing syringes
- 3. Parent to child through pregnancy, birth, and breastfeeding

HIV Not in These Fluids

- 1. Saliva
- 2. Mucus
- 3. Sweat
- 4. Tears
- 5. **Urine**
- 6. Feces
- 7. Vomit

People don't die of HIV or AIDS.

They die from other infections due to a weakened immune system.

Human mmunodeficiency **V**irus

HIV attacks immune system T-Cells by invading them, causing the body to be less able to fight off illness or infection.

Receiving an AIDS Diagnosis

- A T-Cell (our immune system cells) count of **over 500** per 1 mL of blood is considered healthy. Everyone's T-Cell count is different.
 - AIDS diagnosed when T-Cell count is **200 or less** or when diagnosed with opportunistic infections.

HIV can only live a few seconds outside the body.

¹Minnesota HIV Strategy: A Comprehensive Plan to End HİV/AIDS published report by Minnesota Department of Health.

Acquired mmune

AIDS is like late-stage HIV where people live with a weak immune system and Deficiency get opportunistic infections like thrush, pneumo-Syndrome nia, and certain cancers.

64% of HIV positive Minnesotans can't transmit HIV to others since they are undetectable due to adherence to their HIV meds.¹

HIV isn't transmitted through
mosquitoes, ticks,
leaches, cats, or
monkeys. Human to
human only.

Mosquitoes transmit malaria and West Nile.

Quiz Question

What organ protects you from HIV more than any other?

Answer: SKIN! HIV can't pass through skin since HIV needs a mucus membrane like the anus, vagina, the tip of the penis, or an open wound to pass.

Questions? Call JustUs Health AIDSLINE: (612) 373-2437 Information, Referrals, Risk Assessment Services, and PrEP Navigation.

HIV Prevention Meds

Prophylaxis Action taken to prevent disease, especially by a specific means or against EXP092022 a specific disease Examples: condoms, vaccines, PrEP PrEP, PEP

PrEP is a prophylaxis med that prevents HIV from replicating in the body.

Reasons to take PrEP:

- HIV positive partner(s)
- •Condomless sex with those of unknown HIV status
- Treated for STIs
- •On PEP more than once in the last year
- Share syringes
- Exchange sex for shelter, money, substances, or other resources
- Incarceration

PrEP Requires Regular 3 Month Doc Visits for:

- HIV and STI Testing
- Kidney Function Tests
- Bone Mineral Density Tests (if history of bone fracture due to disease or osteoporosis present)

PrEP Startup Syndrome (short term side effects)

- Headache
 Weight Loss

PrEP

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

- •Once a day pill that prevents HIV infection
- •"Birth Control" of HIV
 - Taken before HIV exposure
- •Not an HIV+ med (can lead to treatment resistant strains of HIV)

Also treats and prevents Hep B.

PrEP is compatible with pregnancy but doesn't prevent pregnancy or other STIs.

75-99% Effective

Undetectable Untransmittable

If an HIV+ person is on their meds they can reach an undetectable viral load. This means that there is so little HIV in their body that they cannot transmit it to other people.

Nausea Diarrhea Must take Stomach and Gut Pain for 22 days before

Difficulty Sleeping

Go to ER or urgent care for med ASAP.

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

effective

- Daily pill taken within 72 hours after HIV exposure for 28 days
 - "Morning After Pill" of HIV
 - Taken after unprotected sex

79-92% Effective Often offered after a sexual assault

Reasons Not to take PrEP:

- •You are HIV positive
- •Don't know your Hep B or HIV status
- •Difficulty taking daily meds
- •History of kidney disease/osteoporosis
- •Difficulty attending regular doc visits every 3 months
- Low risk of HIV infection









Hepatitis C 101

Hep C is at least 10 times more infectious than HIV.

Hepa • titis

liver • inflammation

- •The **liver** is the largest internal organ found under the rib cage that filters blood, fights infection, processes nutrients, and manages blood clotting.
- •**Hep C** is a virus that causes liver damage and scarring leading to less blood flow and dysfunction.
- •Heavy alcohol use, toxins, and some meds can cause **non-viral hepatitis**.

- •15-25% clear the virus without treatment.
- •Without treatment, Hep C can lead to liver failure and cancer.

There is a **cure** for Hep C, but reinfection is possible.

Hep C Risk Factor Checklist

Consider getting tested if you check off any of the following:

- Sharing needles, snorting straws or dollar bills, and injection equipment
- Any sexual activity where blood may be present (such as menstruation or micro tears)
- Sharing razors and toothbrushes
- Unsterilized tattoo or body piercings
- Born to a parent with Hep C
- Infected blood to broken skin contact
- Baby Boomer (Born 1945-1965)
- Received blood transfusions, organ transplant, or kidney dialysis before 1992

Treatment rates are 92-98% effective.

Hep C can survive on surfaces for up to **6 weeks**.

If **denied treatment** by your insurance or treated poorly by your doctor for injecting drugs, we can help you access competent care.

Ask us for a referral if needed.

Once infected, you will always test + since Hep C **antibodies** remain in the body. Have your doctor test you for the virus, not just the antibodies.

Common Modes of STI Transmission

1. Condomless Sex

Condomless Anal Sex (Pubic Lice, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, HPV, Herpes, Hep B, Hep C, HIV) Condomless Vaginal Sex while Menstruating (Pubic Lice, Trich, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, HPV,

Herpes, Hep B, Hep C, HIV)

Rough Condomless Anal or Vaginal Sex Causing Tearing (Pubic Lice, Trich, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, HPV, Herpes, Hep B, Hep C, HIV)

Condomless Vaginal Sex (Pubic Lice, Trich, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, HPV, Herpes, Hep B, HIV)

Condomless Oral Sex (Pubic Lice, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, HPV, Herpes)

Condomless Genital to Genital Contact without Penetration (Public Lice, Trich, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, HPV, Herpes)

Sharing Condomless Sex Toys (Trich, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, HPV, Herpes)

2. Contact with STIs

Infected Object to Genitals such as sharing barrier free sex toys and touching hands with infected fluids on them to genitals (Trich, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, HPV, Herpes)

Infected Object to Eyes such as touching hands with infected fluids on them to your eyes (Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Herpes)

Fecal to Oral such as barrier free rimming, condomless anal to oral sex, sharing condomless anal to oral sex toys, hand to mouth (Hep A, Parasites)

Sore to Skin Contact (Syphilis, HPV, Herpes)

Kissing and Sharing Utensils (Herpes)

Skin to Skin Contact (HPV, Herpes)

Sharing Infected Textiles such as Clothing, Bedding, Towels (Pubic Lice)

3. Contact with Infected Blood

Blood to Broken Skin such as barrier free oral sex, using a crack pipe that create micro tears in throat or mouth, or oral sex with open cuts, sores, or wounds (Hep B, Hep C)

Sharing Needles, Syringes, & Injection Equipment (Hep B, Hep C, HIV)

Sharing Piercing, Tattooing, & Stick & Poke Equipment (Hep B, Hep C)

Sharing Snorting Materials, Razors, Toothbrushes (Hep B, Hep C)

4. Pregnant Parent to Child

Parent to Child through pregnancy, birth, or breastfeeding (Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, HPV, Herpes, Hep B, Hep C, HIV)

Mucus membranes are permeable STI entry points including the:

- Anus Rectum Cervix
- Vagina
 Nose
 Eyes
 Foreskin
 - Mouth Throat Urethra

Did you know at least 80% of sexually active people will have an HPV infection at some point in their lifetime?

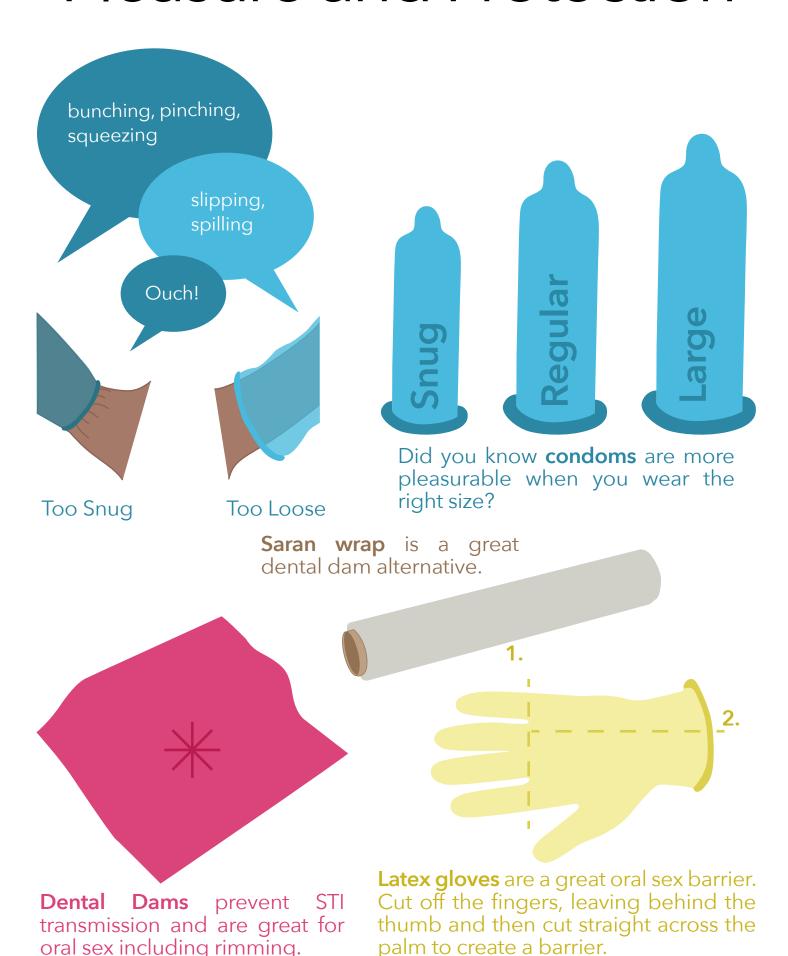
More than 50% of people are infected with oral herpes over their lifetime, commonly during childhood.





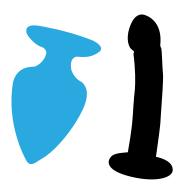


Pleasure and Protection





Avoid using **spermicides** since they cause irritation.



Sterilize or use condoms on sex toys.



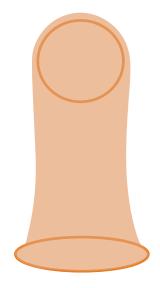
Silicone and water based lube on condoms prevent tearing and irritation.



Oil based lubes and other oil based products break condoms down in as little as 30 seconds.



Check the **expiration date** of your barriers, store at room temp, and outside direct light.



condoms Female or bottom provide extra protection against HPV, herpes, and syphilis since they cover more of the pubic area.



Only use flavored condoms for oral sex since the flavors can irritate your genitals cavity anal during or penetrative sex.









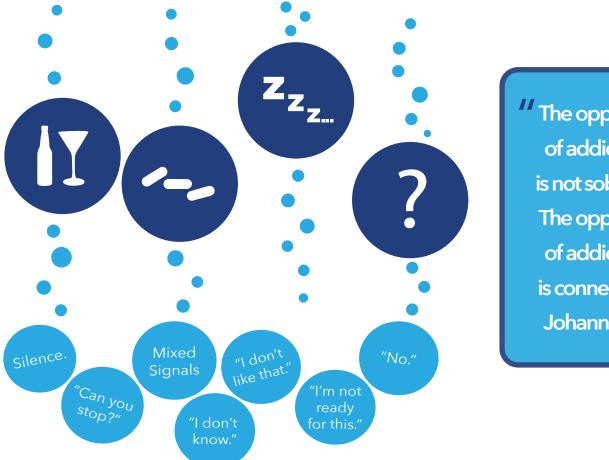
Drug Use and Consent

Why do people overuse drugs and alcohol?

If our need to feel bonded isn't met through meaningful connections, particularly with others, we will find ways to bond with anything, including sex, drugs, alcohol, food, and TV.



Lack of consent looks like...



The opposite of addiction is not sobriety. The opposite of addiction is connection. Johann Hari

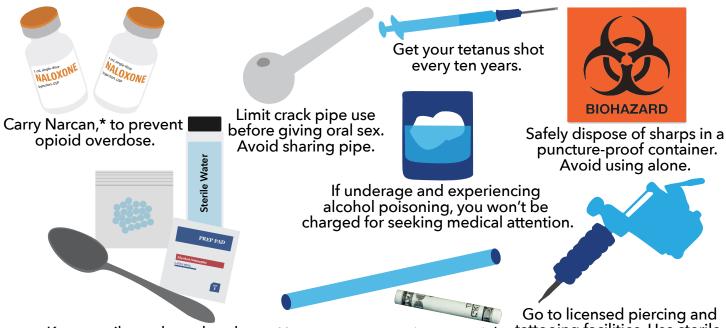






Drug Use Safety

Reduce your risk for HIV, Hep B, Hep C, and other infections by using sterile syringes and works. Always have Narcan* on hand.



Keep sterile works on hand. Use your own snorting materials Don't reuse water, prep pads, cottons, such as straws and dollar bills.

tattooing facilities. Use sterile, unshared stick and pokes.

Injection Equipment Alternatives

Cooker: spoon, teaspoon, metal bottle top, tin, soda can bottom **Cotton**: Q-Tip, cotton ball **Tie**: stocking, condom, sock, necktie Sterile Water: boil water for 10 minutes (allow to cool), next best is tap water, then bottled water, then toilet water from tank **Alcohol pad:** soap/water, rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, disinfectants

Avoid using cigarette filters or tampons as a cotton.

How to clean a syringe

If **bleach** is hydrogen peroxide, rubbing alcohol, Lysol, or detergent. Whenever possible, inject with unused needles and works. One needle, one use. Avoid sharing to prevent infections. **Cookers** can be soaked in bleach to reduce risk.

Reduce, but not eliminate, your risk for HIV, Hep B, and Hep C by:

- 1. Fill a syringe with sterile cool water ASAP after being used, shake for 30 seconds, plunge several times.
- 2. Repeat several times until water in syringe is cleared of as much blood as possible.
- **3.** Fill syringe with **bleach**, shake for 30 seconds, allow bleach to sit for 2 minutes, then plunge several times with bleach.
- 4. Fill syringe with sterile water again, shake, plunge several times, repeat until bleach clears.

Clean syringes with cool (not warm) water to prevent clotting.

> HIV lives up to 7 days inside a syringe.

Hep C lives up to 9 weeks inside a syringe.

Injection Safety

3.

Before Injecting

- Can drug be taken orally, under tongue, smoked, or snorted instead?
- Are you injecting into a vein, muscle, or **skin** that's right for your drug?
- Can you do a **test shot**? Go slow.
- Can you use a Fentanyl test strip?
- If unable to use with someone, can you tell someone where you are?
- Do you have Narcan?* An OD plan?
- Can you find a **clean**, **dry**, **warm**, **safe** place with **good lighting** to inject?

Disinfect

- Wash hands with soap beforehand.
- Disinfect surfaces used to inject or cook on a clean towel or hard surface.
- **Swab** site with alcohol pad in one direction.
- Use sterile, unshared water, cookers, cottons, alcohol pads, and tourniquets to prevent Hep C, HIV, and infections.
- Reusing your own works can lead to infections (bacteria grows after one use).
- Keep site sterile/covered with a band-aid.
- Wait 2 hours after injecting for site to close before using **ointments** to prevent track marks and infection.
- Mark works or keep separate so not mixed up with others' works.

Helping Veins Pop

- Use a tourniquet or tie.
- Warm the site. Wear a coat.
- Inject in a warm room. Make fists.
 - Wrap site with **Saran Wrap**.
- Drink water. Use hair drier on site.
- Dangle or swing limb. Slap site.
- Push-ups. Pull-ups. Weight lifting.
 - Squeeze tennis ball. Wrist curls.

Using a tourniquet or Tie

- Use **slipknot** to easily slip off tie.
- Remove tie **after** needle is in but **before** shooting to relieve pressure.

Injecting Veins

Always insert needle upward to flow toward the heart.

Inject needle at a 25-45 degree angle with bevel or hole facing up.

Inject at least 1 inch from previous injection site closer to the heart (example: from site 1 to 2), especially if skin is red, tender, or has an abscess.

Inject closer to your heart away from the abscess (if an abscess is at site 2, inject at site 4) (reduces further irritation or pushing blood clots into the bloodstream).

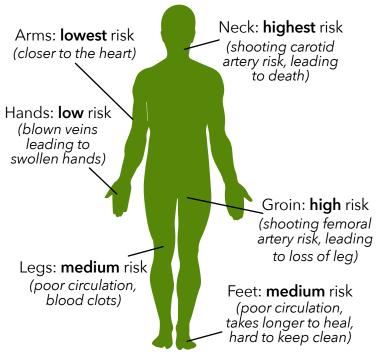
> Learn to inject with both hands, rotating site from left to right arm to prevent veins from disappearing and to allow time to heal.

Avoid injecting into red or tender veins or tissue.









Injecting

- Cook drug until clear and particle free.
- After cooking drug (if needed), draw solution into syringe through a sterile, unused **cotton**.
- Tap out air bubbles. Push liquid to needle tip.
- **Inject** drug and apply **pressure** afterwards with band-aid/tissue (alcohol pad causes bleeding).
- If you **miss a shot**, get a fresh needle to reduce abscess risk and vein/tissue damage.

After Injecting

- Throw away used works; disinfect surfaces.
- Place sharps in biobin or hard plastic.
- If site **swells**, elevate above heart for better circulation (takes about 2 days for a site to heal).

Avoid Hitting Arteries and Nerves

- **Never inject** into a nerve or artery (pulse).
- If the shot hurts, **pull out**! Shot will be wasted.
- After inserting needle, **pull back on plunger** before injecting to check if in a vein.
- Hit **vein** if deep, dark red blood enters syringe.
- Hit **nerve** if no blood enters syringe. Can lead to infection, abscess, paralysis, or loss of limb.
- Hit **artery** if bright red, foamy blood enters or spurts out. Can kill you. Raise limb above heart. Apply pressure. Seek help if bleeding doesn't stop in 10 minutes.
- Arteries hidden deeper in skin than veins. If digging for a vein, you risk hitting an artery.

Skin is tough!

Needles degrade after just one use. Use a new, sterile needle for every injection to prevent abscesses, blown veins, and infections.



Source: Vein Care: Tips & Tricks by Lara Coffin.

Drug Facts

- Use small amount of **citric acid** (1 part acid to 6 parts drug) or **vitamin C** (1 part Vit C to 4 parts drug) to dissolve heroin or crack in water.
- Avoid other acids (lemon juice, vinegar) to dissolve (cause vein damage).
- Cocaine numbs site. Be sure to be in a vein.
- Injecting **speed**, **cocaine**, **pills**, **methadone** into muscles can cause abscesses.
- When sharing, **split dry drugs**, not wet.

Abscess Care

- Clean site with soap and water.
- Mark edge of wound with a marker. If it expands, becomes ½ inch across or more, or you have fever, chills, or site pain, seek help.
- **Track** the size and redness of the site daily with a photo taken on your phone.
- Warm compresses (heating pad, warm towel) or warm salt soaks (2 teaspoons salt per 4 cups warm water) for 15-30 minutes 3 times a day to help the site drain.
- Dampen dressings with **sterile saline** that directly touch site.
- Then cover with **sterile**, **dry gauze** and tape (change 1-2 times a day until pus stops draining).
- Before removing dressing, **dampen gauze** that's touching site so new tissue isn't pulled off.
- After site drains/scabs over, use **ointment**.
- Seek medical attention if **pain**, **swelling**, **fever**, or **chills** persists or worsens.

Opioid Overdose



Narcan* prevents opioid, morphine, codeine, vicodin, methadone, fentanyl, and heroin overdose.

Signs of an Opioid Overdose

- Small, contracted **pupils**
- Droopy, limp muscles
- Scratching due to itchy skin
- Slurred speech
- Pale or clammy face
- Bluish or purplish black lips or fingernails
- Slow, shallow, or erratic breathing
- Slow or erratic pulse
- Choking or raspy snore-like gurgling **noise**
- Vomiting
- Nodding off or passing out



Narcan doesn't prevent benzo, cocaine, meth, alcohol, or other drug overdose unless mixed or laced with fentanyl.

Narcan is not harmful to inject nor addictive.

If unconscious or not breathing

1. Check Responsiveness

- Lightly **shake** them. **Yell** their name.
- Rub knuckles on their chest bone for 10 seconds.

2. Call 911 if Unresponsive

- Give address.
- **Say** they aren't breathing, are unresponsive, or unconscious so that paramedics are dispatched.
- Steve's Law protects you from drug charges.

3. Rescue Breathing Every 5 Seconds

- **Roll** them on their side and **swipe** finger in their mouth to ensure nothing is blocking their throat.
- Roll them on their back, tilt head back, lift chin, pinch nose, give 2 quick breaths every 5 seconds.

4. Inject a 1mL Dose of Narcan Every 2 Minutes

- **Inject** 1st dose into **muscle** on upper arm, upper thigh, or upper/outer quarter of butt.
- Continue rescue breathing.
- **Inject** 2nd dose if unresponsive after 2 minutes.
- For **multiple doses**, 2 doses can be injected into an arm while 4 doses can be injected into a thigh.
- Inject until they wake up. They will enter withdrawal.

5. After Narcan

- Ensure overdose doesn't come back.
- Narcan wears off in 30-45 minutes.
- Someone can slip back into overdose hours after!

If still conscious and breathing

- Walk them around.
- Keep them **awake**, talking, and moving.
- Monitor their breathing.
- Don't leave them alone.

Overdose Prevention

- Have an **OD plan** of action in place.
- Use fentanyl testing strips.
- Have **Narcan** on hand when using.
- Use with others instead of alone.
- Keep doors unlocked while using.
- **Test** new supplies (inject slow, start with a low dose, prepare your own drugs).
- Avoid mixing alcohol, benzos, heroin, methadone, stimulants, or other drugs.
- **Tolerance** lowers after being in jail or prison or during breaks from using.
- Non-opioids (marijuana, cocaine, meth) could be mixed with opioids or fentanyl.

If you must leave the person, place them in the recovery position.

Hand supports head.

Knee stops body from rolling onto stomach. Source: myhealth.alberta.ca

*Narcan is the brand name of naloxone. Info in this packet about Narcan is for educational purposes only.

Protect Yourself: Know the Law

Knowing Transmission of Communicable Diseases

- You are required by law to disclose HIV+ or STI+ status if you do not use "practical means" (barriers, condoms) to protect your sexual and needle sharing partner(s) from infection.
- Considered a secondary offense. You won't be charged unless the offense is paired with another crime like sexual assault.

Partner Notification Services

- Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) anonymously notifies past sexual and needle sharing partners for those newly diagnosed with HIV since there is a possible risk of violence for disclosing HIV status to past partner(s).
- Call MDH at (651) 201-5414 for help with partner notification. They protect your privacy, answer questions, and offer referrals.

Pharmacy Access Law

- In Minnesota, you can purchase up to 10 syringes without a prescription in their sealed bag and put used sharps in a heavy-duty plastic household container (such as a laundry detergent bottle).
- Not all pharmacies participate. This is an optional program. Call ahead to see if they participate.

Steve's Law

- This Minnesotan law provides limited immunity for the person calling 911 when acting in good faith to respond to an opioid overdose emergency (using or possessing drugs related to 911 call for that particular overdose).
- Call 911. Say they aren't breathing or are unconscious so paramedics arrive. Then clear the room and stay with the person.
- No immunity given to overdose responder for other criminal activities (outstanding arrest warrant, perpetrating violence, or gun possession).
- No immunity provided for bystanders for criminal activity or charges (such as drug consumption involved in overdose, buying or selling drug charges, including those involved in drug overdose).



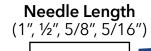






Needles and Syringes

Syringe Sizing Basics



Needle Gauge

indicates thinness or thickness higher the number = thinner (25G, 27G, 28G)

Syringe Volume indicates volume capacity (1cc is equal to 1mL)

Less scarring with thinner gauges.

Basic Syringe Types

28G ½" length 1cc (shorts)

The standard.

Great for those with good veins. Cocaine, Heroin, water soluble drugs.

28G ½" length .5cc (halves) Hold less volume than shorts.

27G 1/2" length 1cc

Thicker gauge.

Ideal for deeper or scarred veins.

31G 5/16" length

Great for hands, feet, and tiny veins.

29G 1/2" length .5cc or 1cc

Great for those with smaller veins.

For opiates, hormones, steriods. Inject in hips, thighs, and upper arms. Dangerous to muscle speed/cocaine.

25G 1" length 3cc

The standard for those with average body fat.

23G 1½" length 3cc

Great for those with more body fat and those injecting hormones.

Arms: 25G-31G (lowest risk) Hands: 28G-31G (low risk) Legs: 25G-31G (medium risk) Feet: 28G-31G (medium risk)

Picking a Needle Gauge

- 18G draws up thick drugs, not for injecting.
- 25G-27G thick or oil based drugs.
- 28G-31G thin or water soluble drugs.
- 23G-25G intramuscular injection.
- **25G-30G** subcutaneous injection.

Intramuscular

Intramuscular

90° angle
Subcutaneous
45° angle
Intravenous
25° angle
Intradermal
10-15° angle

Picking a Needle Length

Intramuscular Injection

- 5/8" (less body fat).
- 1"-11/2" (average body fat).
 - 3" (more body fat).

Veins or Subcutaneous Injection

• ½", 5/8", or 5/16".

Injection Use Infection Process

Waiting to seek help often means a deeper infection, longer healing time, and more skin and vein scarring. Scarring causes poorer circulation and lessens usable injection sites. After a wound, your healed skin functions at 60-80% of normal skin function.

Abscess

An abscess is a warm, dark mound of pus on the skin at risk of spreading an infection to other areas of your body. It forms to wall off a bacterial infection from the rest of your body, making it hard for your immune system to reach.

Cellulitis

Cellulitis of the skin may then develop around an abscess when the infection in the abscess travels into the surrounding skin leading to redness, swelling, warmth, and site pain. Cellulitis can also arise without an abscess present.

Sepsis

Sepsis is a potentially life-threatening infection, developing last when an abscess or a cellulitis skin infection travels through your bloodstream and lymph system, leading to blood poisoning. Seek medical help immediately if fever, chills, or shaking occurs or if site redness, pain, swelling, or warmth worsens.

The Following Damages Skin

- Chemicals: injecting drugs or what the drug is cut with.
- Mechanical: friction, scratching, cold temps, too wet or sweaty, needles, surgery, shaving.
- Microbial: bacteria, yeast, staph, and microorganisms are all around us.

Quick Prevention Tips

- Rotate injection site.
- **Use warm compress** or washcloth after injecting.
- Use a new, sterile needle every time you inject.
- Wash hands regularly with soap.
- Clean site with alcohol pad before injecting.

Edited by Carter Thurmond, MA and Dave Glanzer, RN. Reviewed by Dr. Frank Rhame, Infectious Disease Specialist.







Caring for Injection Wounds

Your hard work and self-care will shorten healing time, leave less scarring, and keep your veins healthy for safer injection.

Disinfecting and Decreasing Skin Irritation

Wash hands with soap before and after contact with site, touching it as little as possible.

Wash site with soap and water before covering with a band aid or gauze.

Change dressing at least daily. Change more often or use a more absorbent pad, such as menstrual pads, if skin becomes too sweaty, such as during summer.

Use paper tape with gauze and avoid using tape adhesives directly on site since it can irritate or tear surrounding skin when removing.

Use saline solution or sterile water to dampen dressings before taking them off. Peeling away dry dressings can tear and remove healing skin.

Pack deep wounds with gauze dampened with saline solution to help heal properly for as long as drainage is occurring.

Soak site in warm water with Epsom salt or table salt.

Use antibiotic ointment on site after it drains and scabs over or if wound is too dry, such as during winter, for no more than 3 days (overuse kills good cells).

Use Vaseline or mineral oil on the healthy skin around your wound (not on your wound) to create a protective barrier against skin breakdown due to wound drainage or a moist wound.

Reducing Inflammation and Pain

Apply a warm compress or washcloth for missed shots or abscesses for 15-20 minutes 3 times a day. Warmth helps circulate your drug, improves circulation, shortens healing time, decreases inflammation, less scarring, healthier veins). Circulation is healing.

Elevate site above heart to minimize swelling. Treatment failure is more commonly due to failure to elevate than failure of antibiotics.

Take ibuprofen or Tylenol to reduce site pain and inflammation.

Take entire round of antibiotics even if the infection looks better. Antibiotics can take time to heal wounds, especially when other health conditions are present and dead bacteria in skin continue to induce swelling and inflammation.

Rotate injection sites at least 1 inch away from missed shot or abscess to reduce infection risk and speed up healing.

Monitor site for infections by marking edges of wound with a marker and take a picture to track wound size. If it expands, seek medical help. Write down your symptoms and the date to track recovery.

Edited by Carter Thurmond, MA and Dave Glanzer, RN. Reviewed by Dr. Frank Rhame, Infectious Disease Specialist.







Wound Healing Self Care

Eat protein (peanuts, cheese, yogurt, beans, milk) and stay hydrated with water to boost your immune system's ability to fight infection.

Rest to have time off your feet at syringe exchanges, libraries, or city benches. You can also visit Dorothy Day Place, Higher Ground, Family Service Center, and the Opportunity Center where they provide meals, shelter, opportunities to find jobs, and secure housing and medical care.

Reduce smoking (smoking causes blood vessels to become smaller and reduces circulation).

Treat health conditions like diabetes or high blood sugar. Sugar can decrease circulation, delay healing, and feed bacteria.

Exercise and stretching increases circulation (while pain limits activity). Pumping calf or arm muscles improves circulation and helps veins pop.

Staying Connected

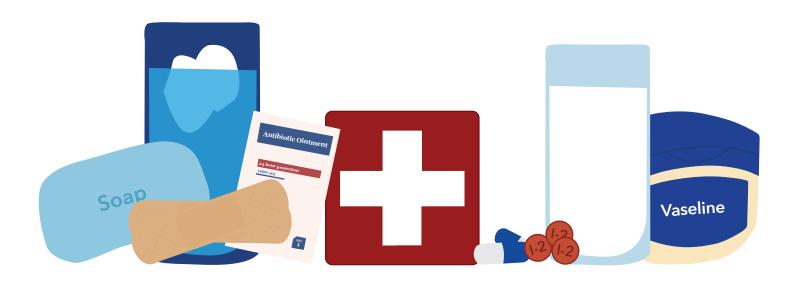
Seek medical help at a clinic or ER if there is increased drainage, pus, redness, swelling, smell, site pain or warmth, delayed healing, fever, shaking, and chills. You may need oral antibiotics. Life threatening blood poisoning could occur if left untreated.

Stay in touch with people you trust for support. You can talk through your pain (throbbing, aching, stabbing) and other concerns to find solutions together.

Advocate for yourself. Anybody can get skin infections. You should be treated without shame or judgement by helping professionals.

Make a doctor visit count. If seen at a clinic or ER, you can update your vaccines, STI testing, or treat other health concerns.

You are worthy of care.



Hormones and Surgery

Hormone Replacement Therapy

MTF Trans Woman	s Hormones -		Testosterone
9			O'
Soften ↓ Oil, Sweat, Acne, Body Odor			
♦ Muscle Mass ♦ Strength			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Chest Growth			
† Hip, Thigh Fat			
♦ Sex Drive			
Infertility Sperm Production	_	• .	
↓ Erections Whole Body Orgasms↓ Chest, Back, Arm, Facial Hair			_
Venest, back, Arm, Facial Hair Venest, back, Arm, Facial Hair Venest, back, Arm, Facial Hair	•		
VIIaii Loss	Scarp Hair -	IVI	ale Fatterii Haii Loss
Anti-androgen pills block the action & production laters their	sare \ to trans puberty,	Routine blood draws are necessary to check hormone levels & organ function.	Pregnancy for FTMs less likely on testosterone but birth control, like
of testosterone in the body.		vorgan rance on .	depo-provera, recommended.
Female hormones often lead to sterility for MTFs but birth control is still recommended.	Trans & GNC* people may want surge or hormones t	Donating b	an lead evels of obin. lood can
	affirm their gender.	decrease	icvelo.

Feminizing Surgeries

Breast Augmentation breast implants **Orchiectomy** testicle removal **Vaginoplasty** penile inversion to create a vagina

Facial Feminization feminize the face



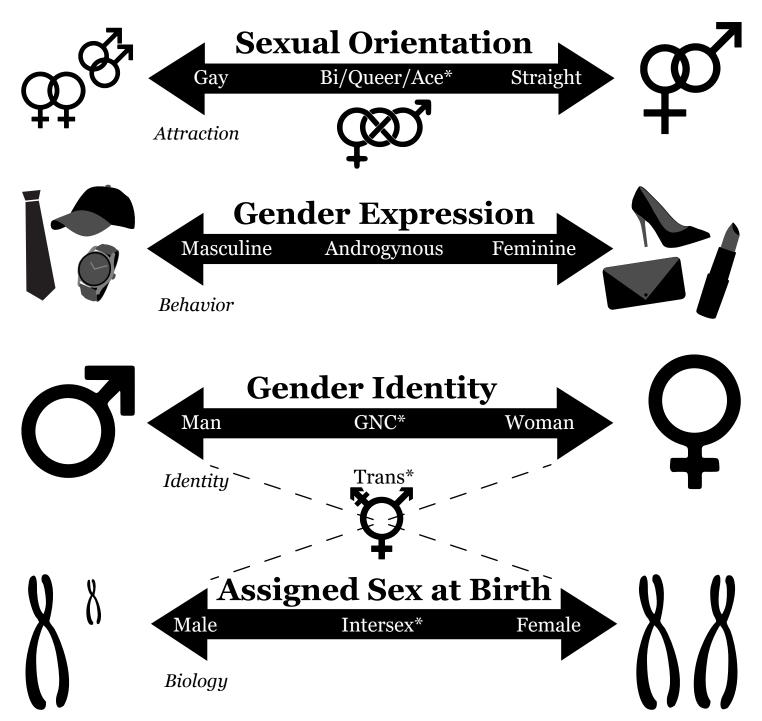
Masculinizing Surgeries

Mastectomy chest removal
Oophorectomy ovary removal
Hysterectomy uterus removal
Metoidioplasty creation of a neophallus
Phalloplasty creation of a penis

*Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming

Identifying the Spectrum

Our gender identity, sexual orientation, and gender expression isn't set in stone and can change over time.



^{*}Ace = someone who identifies as asexual.

^{*}*Intersex* = someone born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit typical definitions of female or male.









^{*}GNC = someone who identifies as Gender Non-Conforming.

^{*}Trans = someone whose sense of gender identity doesn't match their assigned sex at birth.

Sex, Bodies, & Language

As a culture we use a broad array of terms to describe different sex acts.

Many come with STI risks while some have minimal to no risk.

Anal Sex				
Barebacking - condomless anal sex Train F*ck - anal sex with multiple partners Booty Bumping - drugs taken rectally Fisting - penetration of anus with hand/arm	 Anal tissue is thin & tears easily No natural lubrication in rectum Micro-tears create entry point for STIs 			
Vaginal Sex				
Tribadism (scissoring) - rubbing genitals against each other Fisting - penetration of vagina with hand/arm	 Vagina often produces natural lubrication (some may not so use lube!) Doesn't need to be torn for transmission 			
Oral Sex using mouth, lips, or tongue to stimulate genitals or anus				
Anilingus (rimming) - mouth to anus Cunnilingus - mouth to vagina Fellatio (blow job) - mouth to penis Deepthroating - erect penis placed deep into throat	Low HIV risk since saliva & stomach acid kills HIV Giving oral sex is an HIV risk if there is active bleeding in mouth, gums, lips Receiving oral sex is not an HIV risk since only exposed to saliva			
Fluid Bonding partners exchanging sexual fluids without barriers				
Genital Rubbing - rubbing genitals together Cream Pie - cum oozing out of orifice Felching - sucking cum out of anus Snowballing - taking semen into mouth & passing it to partner's mouth Pig Play - barrier free fluid exchange, scat, or blood play	•Some STI risks since sexual fluids are passed			
Outercourse non-penetrative sexual activity				
Fingering - using fingers to stimulate genitals Frottage - dry humping Intercrural Sex - thrusting penis in between partner's thighs BDSM - consensual bondage, discipline, dominance, submission, & sadomasochism	• Minimal to no STI risks			



Many trans and gender non-conforming people use different terms as well to describe their bodies such as the terms chest, front hole instead of vagina, and clitty instead of penis. Misgendering isn't just about pronouns.

STI Risk Reduction

Pick and chose ways to protect yourself from STI infection from the following list.

Barrier Use	Contact with STI Fluids & Sores	
1. Use condoms for anal, vaginal, & oral sex.	30. Limit anal, vaginal, & oral sex while menstruating .	
2. Use dental dams for oral sex including rimming.	31. Limit contact with sores & warts.	
3. Only use flavored condoms for oral sex (the flavoring can irritate your	32. Limit touching hands with sexual fluids on them to eyes or genitals .	
genitals or anal cavity).	33. Limit brushing teeth, flossing, open sores, bleeding cuts in mouth	
4. Use bottom condoms for anal & vaginal sex.	before oral sex.	
5. If other barriers are unavailable, use saran wrap or latex gloves!	34. Use own razors & toothbrushes.	
6. Check the expiration date of your barriers.	35. If engaged in condomless sex, pull out before ejaculation to reduce	
o. Check the expiration date of your barriers.	STI risk.	
7. Keep barriers at room temperature (to avoid extreme heat & cold).	Medical Interventions	
8. Limit direct sunlight, fluorescent light, & moisture for barriers.	36. Get tested for STIs regularly (every 3 months if engaged in STI risks or become pregnant).	
9. Use the right sized condom (should roll all the way down without	37. Get STI treatment when needed.	
bunching up with the right girth).	- Cotton Madellone Michigande	
10. Apply a drop of lube to the inside of the condom's tip (to reduce breakage & increase pleasure).	38. Take STI meds & other meds as needed.	
11. Pinch condom tip before rolling down the shaft (to reduce bubbles & breakage).	39. Take PrEP (to prevent HIV infection if at high risk).	
12. If uncircumcised, pull foreskin back before rolling condom down.	40. Take PEP within 72 hours (if exposed to HIV).	
13. Use a new condom when switching holes.	41. Take HIV meds (if positive).	
14. Only use one condom at a time (doubling up leads to breakage).	42. Get vaccinated for Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, & HPV.	
15. Hold condom base when pulling out (to prevent spills).	43. Get regular pap smear screenings (every 3 years if assigned female at birth).	
16. If condom breaks or spills , wash fluids from body with soap & water.	44. Get regular prostate cancer screenings (if assigned male at birth & over 50).	
17. Use barriers on sex toys (or sterilize in-between use).	45. Exercise regularly, eat well , drink water, rest, limit alcohol & drug use , & reduce stress (to boost your immune system's ability to fight STI infection).	
Lube & Spermicide Use	46. Take birth control as prescribed (doesn't prevent STIs).	
18. Use lube during anal & vaginal sex (reduces micro-tearing, rips, & irritation).	Partner Communication & Negotiation	
19. Use water or silicone-based lube on barriers (they are barrier	47. Tell partner(s) about your STI history & risk factors (if you are	
friendly lubes).	comfortable disclosing).	
20. Limit flavored lube for anal & vaginal sex (the flavoring can irritate	48. Ask partner(s) about their STI history & risk factors & get tested with	
your genitals or anal cavity).	your partner(s).	
21. Oil-based lube on condoms break them down in 30 seconds (such	49. Negotiate sex acts & sexual behaviors as well as barrier use for anal,	
as vaseline, coconut & massage oil, lotion). 22. Limit spermicidal cream use (cause irritation).	vaginal, & oral sex. No Risk Activities	
·		
Drug & Needle Use	50. Masturbate, watch porn, & sext.	
23. Use sterile, unused syringes when injecting.24. Go to licensed piercing & tattooing facilities & use sterile stick &	51. Use clean sex toys.	
pokes.	52. Engage in minimal risk BDSM activities.	
25. Exchange used syringes for new ones through syringe exchange		
programs (such as MAINLINE).	53. Abstinence.	
26. Use own injection equipment separately from others (including		
cookers, cottons, tourniquets/ties, waters).		
27. Use own snorting materials separately from others (straws, dollar		
bills).		
28. Limit drug use before or during sex (such as alcohol to maintain		
awareness). 29. Limit crack pipe use before oral sex (tiny cuts in mouth & throat,		
increasing STI transmission risk).		







Nutrition

Eating certain foods can decrease the negative impacts of substance and alcohol use on your body by improving your mood, energy levels, and memory as well as strengthening your immune system and reducing your risk for disease.

Complex Carbs

- Wheat Bread Cereal Nuts
 - Low Fat Dairy
 Potatoes
- Fruits Veggies Beans Peas

Complex carbs are great for a short-term burst of energy.

Protein

- Lean MeatFishDairy
- Seeds Nuts Chicken Éggs
- Beans Peanut Butter Cheese

Protein energizes you for longer and helps with digestion.

Fiber

- Oatmeal Nuts Beans
- Wheat Bread Brown Rice
- Apples Carrots Tomatoes

Fiber helps you feel full and content.

Fat

- Lean Meat Fish Dairy SeedsNuts Avocado Cheese
- Eggs Yogurt Dark Chocolate
- Eggs rogurt Dark Chocolate

Healthy fats boost energy and help regulate mood.

Vitamins & Minerals

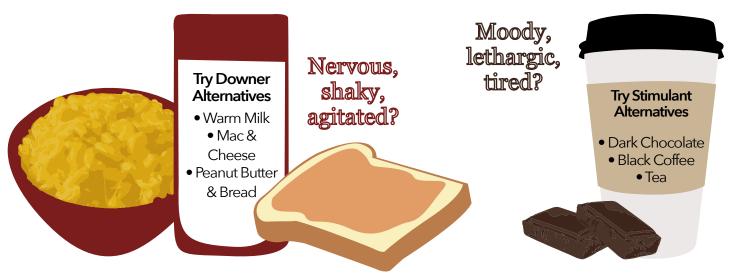
- Wheat Bread Cereal Beans
- Peas Peanuts Seeds Milk
 - Dairy Fruits Veggies

Vitamins and minerals can help you feel better & heal faster.

Calcium Rich

- Milk Yogurt Cheese TofuCottage Cheese Kale
 - Frozen Yogurt Pudding

Dairy is a sleep-aid, relaxing the nerves and muscles.



Hydration

Staying hydrated helps you bounce back from the negative impacts of substance and alcohol use as well as gives your body what it needs to help you detox, decrease cravings, and overcome withdrawal.

Signs to Drink More Water

Dark Yellow Urine

Cotton Mouth

Fatigue

Dizziness Nausea **Dull Skin Muscle Cramping**

> Headache **Constipation**

Drinking water when consuming caffeine, sugar, salt, alcohol, and stimulants prevents dehydration.

Drinking water while exercising, walking, or sweating replenishes your body.



Citrus gives a burst of flavor and vitamins in your water.



Drinking a glass of water with every alcoholic drink or anytime you get high helps prevent dehydration.



When using substances, drinking the following beverages keeps you hydrated:

- Sparkling Water Bubble Tea
- Smoothie Drinks Pedialyte
 - Sports Drinks Teas
 - Electrolyte Drinks
 - 100% Fruit Juice

If you prefer ice, adding ice to your water can help you drink more.



Drinking water with meals can prevent overeating since you may feel fuller.

Hydrating Foods

- Watermelon Strawberry
 - Cucumber Soup
 - Milk Celery
 - Tomato
 Cantaloupe
 - Lettuce Bell Pepper
 - Orange
 Peach









Twin Cities Resource List

HIV+ Care

JustUs Health

2577 W Territorial Rd, St. Paul, MN 55114 | (612) 341-2060

- Free HIV Testing HIV+ Services Housing & Financial Trainings
 - Support Groups Insurance & Legal Transportation
- Mental Health Health Insurance Navigation Syringe Exchange
 - LGBTQ Advocacy Chemical Health Assessments

Red Door

Health Services Building | 4th Floor 525 Portland Ave, Mpls, MN 55415 | (612) 543-5555

- STI Testing & Treatment PrEP Narcan Birth Control Lube
 - STI Partner Notification Condoms Syringe Exchange
 - Immunization Support Groups
 - Sexual Health Education Appointments

Hennepin Healthcare Positive Care Center

Blue Building | Level 1 B1.290 913 S 7th St, Mpls, MN, 55415 | (612) 873-2700

- HIV+ Primary Healthcare PEP PrEP HIV Pharmacy
 - Case Management Multilingual Interpreters
- Chemical Health & Nutrition Assessments Mental Health
 - Accept Uninsured & Underinsured Free HIV Testing
 - Health Education Counseling Med Management
 - Transportation Services

The Aliveness Project

3808 Nicollet Ave, Mpls, MN 55409 | (612) 824-5433

• Free HIV Testing • HIV+ Care Linkage • HIV+ Member Benefits

Primary Care

For Low-Income, Uninsured, and Underinsured:

Native American Community Clinic

1213 E Franklin Ave, Mpls, MN 55404 | (612) 872-8086

- Primary Care Mental Health Dental Social Services
- Health Promotion Programs Buprenorphine/suboxone program

Community-University Health Care Center

2001 Bloomington Ave, Mpls, MN 55404 | (612) 872-8086

- Primary Care Mental Health Dental Legal Interpreters
- Victim Advocacy Education Buprenorphine/suboxone program

For Low-Income, Uninsured, and Underinsured:

Open Cities Health Center

Dunlap Clinic: 409 North Dunlap St, St. Paul, MN 55104 North End Clinic: 916 Rice St, St. Paul, MN 55117 (651) 290-9200

- Nutrition Chiropractic Free HIV Testing Medical Dental
 - Eye Care Mental Health Podiatry Outreach

People's Center Clinics & Services

Cedar-Riverside: 425 20th Ave S, Mpls, MN 55454 | (612) 332-4973 Dental: 3152 Minnehaha Ave S, Mpls, MN 55406 | (612) 332-4973

- Medical Sexual Health STI & HIV Testing Dental Birth Control
 - Physical Therapy Counseling Support Services

Minnesota Community Care

153 Cesar Chavez St, St. Paul, MN 55107 895 East 7th St, St. Paul, MN 55106 1544 Timberlake Rd, St. Paul, MN 55117 (651) 602-7500

- Free HIV Testing Medical Dental Pharmacy Mental Health
- Chiropractic Child, Teen, Women's, Senior Health Optometry

Southside Community Health Services

Medical & Mental Health: 324 East 35 St, Mpls, MN 55408 (612) 827-7181

Dental & Vision: 4243 4th Ave S, Mpls, MN 55409 Dental (612) 822-9030 | Vision (612) 821-2003

• Medical • Dental • Vision • Mental Health

Gender Affirming Hormone Care

Hennepin Healthcare Gender & Sexual Health Clinic

Located in Internal Medicine Clinic | 2nd Floor 715 South 8th St, Mpls, MN 55404 | (612) 873-2474

• Hormone Care • Primary Care • Surgery Referrals

Family Tree Clinic

1619 Dayton Ave #205, St. Paul, MN 55104 | (651) 645-0478

- Hormone Care Sexual Health Limited Primary Care
- Free HIV Testing for Uninsured Preconception Planning

Program in Human Sexuality

1300 South 2nd St, Mpls, MN 55454 | (612) 625-1500

- Hormone Care Primary Care Surgery Referrals Mental Health
 - Sex Positive Support Groups

University of Minnesota Clinics and Surgery Center

909 Fulton St SE, Mpls, MN 55455 | (612) 676 4227

- Hormone Care Primary Care Surgery Referrals Bottom & Top
 - Surgery Speech Therapy Sex Positive Support Groups
 - Individual, Group, & Family Counseling

Park Nicollet

2001 Blaisdell Ave S, Mpls, MN 5504 | (952) 993-8052

- Hormone Care Yearly Exams Surgery Referrals Voice Therapy
- Reproductive Services Hysterectomies Chest Reconstruction Mental Health

North Memorial Health

4209 Webber Pkwy, Mpls, MN 55412 | (763) 581-5750

- Hormone Care Primary Care PrEP Surgery Referrals
 - HIV/STI Prevention & Treatment







Sexual Health

Clinic 555

Ramsey County Public Health Center
555 Cedar St, Saint Paul, MN 55101 | (651) 266-1255

• STI Testing • PrEP • PEP • Pregnancy Testing • Birth Control • Plan B
• Narcan • Wound Care • Syringe Exchange • Pap Smears
• Mammograms

Face to Face (serve ages 11-24)

1165 Arcade St, Saint Paul, MN 55106 | (651) 772-5555

- STI/HIV Testing & Treatment Medical Birth Control
- Family Planning Plan B Pregnancy Testing Prenatal Care

Planned Parenthood

918 W Lake St, Mpls, MN 55408 | (612) 823-6300 671 Vandalia St, Saint Paul, MN 55114 | (651) 698-2406

- Pregnancy Testing & Services HIV Testing Abortion Referrals
 - STI Testing, Treatment, & Vaccines Birth Control Plan B
 - Men's & Women's Health Care

Annex Teen Clinic (serve youth up to 25)

5810 42 Ave N, Robbinsdale, MN 55422 | (763) 533-1316

- Birth Control STI & HIV Testing Yearly Exams Plan B
 - Pregnancy Testing

Addiction Treatment

Hennepin Healthcare Addiction Medicine

914 S 8th St, Mpls, MN, 55415 | (612) 873-5500

- Treat Opioid, Alcohol, Tobacco, & Some Sedative Use MAT
 - Medical Pain Management Mental Health

Pride Institute

Residential: 14400 Martin Dr, Eden Prairie, MN 55344 Outpatient: 2101 Hennepin Ave S, Suite 202, Mpls, MN 55405 (800) 547-7433

• Mental Health • Sexual Health • Support Groups

Latitudes

1609 Jackson St, Saint Paul, MN 55117 | (612) 454-2016

• LGBT Treatment • Medical • Mental Health

Nuway

Residential:

2200 1st Ave S, Mpls, MN 55404 2518 1st Ave S, Mpls, MN 55404

Outpatient:

2118 Blaisdell Ave, Mpls, MN 55404 1404 Central Ave NE, Mpls, MN 55413 545 7th St W, St Paul, MN 55102 (612) 767-0309

• Mental Health • Support Groups

Valhalla Place

3329 University Ave SE, Mpls, MN 55414 | (612) 454-2260 Locations also in Woodbury, Brklyn Park, Brainerd
• MAT • Mental Health • Chemical Health Assessment

Syringe Exchanges

Syringe Service Programs offer:

- Sterile syringes Injection equipment Sharps containers
- Safe syringe disposal HIV and Hep C Testing Narcan
- Mental, medical, sexual health, and substance use referrals

MAINLINE

All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church 3100 Park Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55407 | (612) 341-2060

Red Door Clinic

525 Portland Ave, Mpls, MN 55415 | (612) 543-5555

Indigenous People's Task Force

1335 E 23rd St, Mpls, MN 55404 | (612) 870-1723

Southside Harm Reduction Services

Twin Cities Delivery | (612) 615-9725

In 'n' Out NorthPoint Inc.

1315 Penn Ave N, Mpls, MN 55411 | (612) 543-2500

Clinic 555

555 Cedar St, Saint Paul, MN 55101 | (651) 266-1255

MN Trans Health Coalition

730 38th St Suite 108, Mpls, MN 55407 | (612) 823-1152

Valhalla Minneapolis

3329 University Ave SE, Mpls, MN 55414 | (612) 454-2260

Valhalla Woodbury

6043 Hudson Rd STE 220, Woodbury, MN 55125 | (651) 925-8200

Valhalla Brklyn Park

2807 Brookdale Drive N, Brklyn Park, MN 55444 | (763) 237 9898

Updated 1/9/2020

Find a DHS statewide treatment locator here:

www.fasttrackermn.org