

Health Education Field Trip
Empire State Plaza in Albany, NY

World AIDS DAY

Ending the AIDS Epidemic in New York State

On June 29, 2014, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo detailed a three-point plan to move us closer to the end of the AIDS epidemic in New York State. The goal is to reduce the number of new HIV infections to just 750 (from an estimated 3,000) by 2020 and achieve the first ever decrease in HIV prevalence in New York State.

The three-point plan:

1. Identifies persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed and link them to health care.
2. Links and retains persons diagnosed with HIV in health care to maximize virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent further transmission.
3. Facilitates access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for high-risk persons to keep them HIV negative.

Ending the Epidemic (ETE) in New York State will maximize the availability of life-saving, transmission-interrupting treatment for HIV, saving lives and improving the health of New Yorkers. It will move New York from a history of having the worst HIV epidemic in the country to a future where new infections are rare and those living with the disease have normal lifespans with few complications.

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/GuidanceDocument4.25.update.pdf>

New York State Health Education Standards

HIV.C.1 The risk of becoming infected with HIV/AIDS can be virtually eliminated by practicing abstinence from sexual contact and not sharing needles to inject drugs, vitamins or steroids.

HIV.C.2 Sexual transmission of HIV is not a threat to those uninfected individuals who engage in a mutually monogamous sexual relationship.

HIV.C.3 An individual is at greater risk of HIV infection by having one or more sexual partners who are at increased risk by engaging in sexual contact that results in the exchange of body fluids (i.e., semen, vaginal secretions, blood); and/or by using unsterile needles or paraphernalia to inject drugs, vitamins or steroids.

HIV.C.4 The risk of becoming infected with HIV from blood transfusions and from blood clotting products is nearly eliminated.

HIV.C.5 Individuals who engage in sexual contact need to properly use a latex or polyurethane condom to reduce the likelihood of becoming infected.

HIV.C.6 Latex/polyurethane condoms are not 100% effective; however they provide the best protection for individuals who are not abstinent and do not maintain a mutually monogamous sexual relationship with an uninfected partner.

HIV.C.7 Correct and consistent use of a latex/polyurethane condom does not guarantee absolute protection against the sexual transmission of HIV.

HIV.C.8 Individuals who have engaged in behaviors that have put them at risk for HIV need to take precautions not to infect others, to seek counseling and antibody testing and advise current sexual and/or drug partners to receive counseling and testing.

HIV.C.9 Adolescents should be encouraged to consult with their parents/guardians before visiting a doctor or clinic. However, NYS Public Health Law allows adolescents to access testing, medical care and services for HIV.

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/health/faq.html>

- Is HIV/AIDS education in schools mandated in New York State?
 - a. Yes. All schools K-12, shall provide appropriate instruction concerning acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) as a part of the sequential health education program. In public schools, the board of education or trustees shall establish an advisory council which shall be responsible for making recommendations concerning the content, implementation, and evaluation of an AIDS instruction program. The advisory council shall consist of parents, school board members, appropriate school personnel, and community representatives, including representatives from religious organizations. Each board of education or trustees shall determine the content of the curriculum and approve its implementation, and shall be responsible for the evaluation of the program.

- Can parents or legal guardians have their children "opt out" of HIV/AIDS education?
 - a. Yes, for "methods of prevention" only. According to Commissioner's Regulation 135.3, AIDS education should, at a minimum provide accurate information concerning the nature of the disease, methods of transmission, and methods of prevention. No pupil shall be required to receive instruction concerning the methods of prevention of AIDS if the parent or legal guardian of such pupil has filed with the principal of the school which the pupil attends a written request that the pupil not participate in such instruction with an assurance that the pupil will receive such instruction at home. Such exempt pupils, however, are still required to receive instruction concerning the nature of the disease and methods of transmission.