

## Legalities Surrounding HIV in Kids

- There is no legal obligation to disclose a child's HIV status to schools or daycare in Canada.
- HIV is considered a disability under the law.
- Canada's human rights laws prohibit discrimination based on disability when providing services.
- School and daycare providers are under an obligation to keep the HIV status of children confidential.

## Talking to Children About HIV

- Very young children are unable to fully understand things such as disease, death or sex, so talking to them about HIV is inadvisable.
- However, young children are able to learn basic infection control information such as washing their hands and using a tissue.
- They can learn in the simplest of terms to keep their germs to themselves (coughing into their arms, not licking each other, etc.)
- This is also a good age to teach children the correct names for their body parts and lay the ground for a supportive and open relationship with them.

## HIV Transmission

- No Risk** Coming into contact with any fluids besides blood including urine, feces, tears, sweat, saliva, etc.
- No Risk** Hugging or kissing a person with HIV
- No Risk** Sharing household items (ie. toilets or utensils) with people with HIV
- No Risk** Swimming in public pools or hot tubs with people who have HIV
- No Risk** Bites or scratches with no blood drawn
- No Risk** Touching the same surfaces as someone with HIV
- Some Risk** Bites or scratches with blood drawn
- High Risk** Blood being transmitted from the infected child directly into a blood person
- High Risk** Mom to baby through pregnancy or breastfeeding

With effective anti- HIV treatment available for both mother and infant, along with adequate prenatal care and no breastfeeding, only around 1% of babies born to women with HIV actually acquire HIV

## Cleaning Up Blood Spills

Standard precautions should be followed when blood or blood- containing body fluids are handled. For blood and blood- containing fluids, these are the same precautions described by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as universal precautions.

1. Wear disposable gloves or, if using utility gloves, be sure the utility gloves are sanitized after use.
2. Absorb as much of the spill as possible with disposable materials; put the contaminated materials in a plastic bag with a secure tie.
3. Clean contaminated surfaces with detergent and water.
4. Rinse with water.
5. Disinfect the clean surface by using a disinfectant.
6. Dispose of all soiled items in plastic bags with secure ties.

HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. Let's break this down:

## What is HIV?

- H** Human: It infects humans
- I** Immunodeficiency: it weakens the immune system
- V** Virus: It is a virus

- HIV lives in the blood throughout the body
- HIV attacks your immune system cells (also found in the blood)
- Without the immune system cells, your body cannot fight off other sicknesses.

## What does HIV do?

HIV cannot be cured, but it can be treated (once you have it, you will always need to take medication).

## How can you get rid of HIV?

HIV is treated with antiretrovirals (pills that prevent it from spreading)

HIV in children is rare; Many precautions are taken to prevent moms from passing it to their babies such as:

- Blood testing mom
- Treatments of mom if necessary
- Post-exposure prophylaxis treatment after the pregnancy

## HIV in Kids

HIV-positive children tend to get more bacterial infections, like sinusitis or otitis due to their weakened immune systems. They may also experience:

- Unexplained fevers
- Enlarged lymph nodes
- Inflammation of organs/glands
- Failure to grow and develop well

## Main Takeaways

Children living with HIV need the same amount of love and attention as children without HIV

The HIV status of a child or infant should not affect the way an adult or other children interact with them

The HIV status of a child poses no threat to adults caring for them or other children around them

## Need More Information?

### General:

Teva Canada: What you need to know (Teva)

### Regarding Legalities:

Know Your Rights: Disclosure in Daycare and Schools (CAITIE)

### Regarding HIV Management:

Managing your health: a guide for people living with HIV: Children and HIV (CATIE)

Feel free to contact the Know Your Status team with any questions!

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## HIV for Childcare Providers



What childcare providers should know about potential HIV infection in a child

