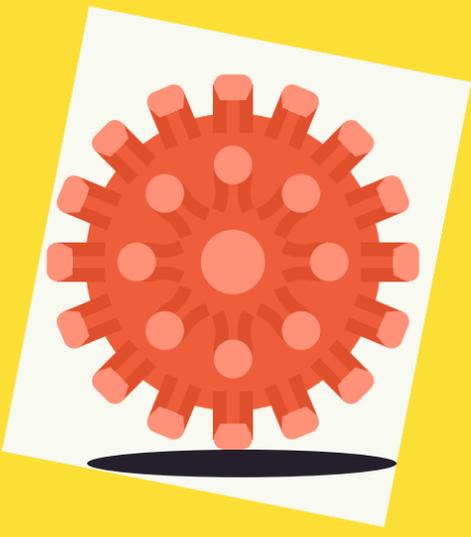
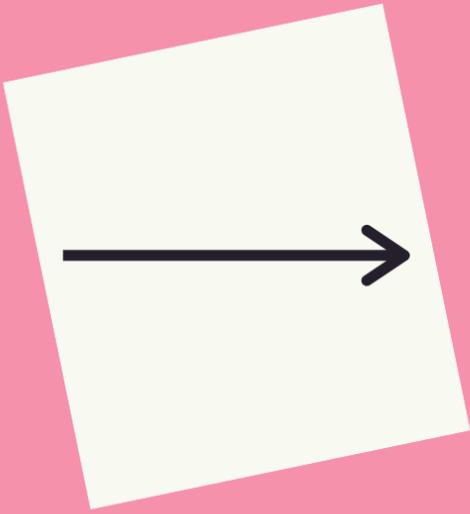


# UNDERSTANDING HIV



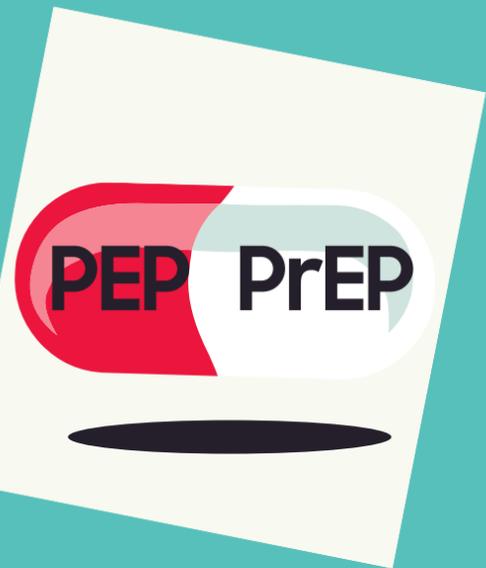
## What is HIV and AIDs

HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. This virus affects people's immune system - which is the body's defence against illnesses. HIV increases the risk for opportunistic infections and certain cancers.



## How is it spread?

HIV is transmitted between people through the exchange of certain types of bodily fluids. Bodily fluids that can transmit HIV include blood, semen, breast milk, and vaginal fluids. This means HIV can be spread through sexual contact - therefore HIV is an STI.



## How is it treated?

HIV is treated using anti-viral medication. This keeps the amount of the virus so low, that it cannot be detected in the body. PrEP is a medication that someone can take before they have sex with someone who has/might have HIV, which stops them getting it too. PEP is a pill that can be taken up to 72 hours after sex with someone who has/might have HIV to stop that person getting it too.

## Support Organisations



Positive Life supports and promotes positive living for people with and affected by HIV in Northern Ireland.

the rainbow



project

The Rainbow Project is an LGBTQ+ organisation that offers rapid HIV testing and support for those with HIV

# COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Do a lot of people have HIV in NI?**

There are around 1,123 people in NI living with HIV or AIDS and there was 52 new diagnoses in 2019.

People with HIV who are on anti-viral medication, with an un-detectable viral load can not pass on HIV.

**Can people with HIV have relationships?**

**Where can you access PEP and PreP?**

PEP and PreP can be accessed through the GUM clinic. This is only available to a small number of "at risk" people.

AIDS is far less common than HIV. If left untreated HIV can become AIDS, which affects the immune system, making people more likely to get very sick.

**What is the difference between HIV and AIDS?**

## CLINIC OPENING TIMES:

### BELFAST

MONDAY..... 14:30 - 17:00  
 TUESDAY..... 14:30 - 17:00  
 WEDNESDAY..... 14:30 - 17:00  
 THURSDAY..... 17:30 - 20:00  
 FRIDAY..... 14:00 - 16:30  
 SATURDAY..... 13:30 - 16:00  
 SUNDAY..... 13:30 - 15:00

### COLERAINE

MONDAY..... 14:30 - 17:00  
 TUESDAY..... CLOSED  
 WEDNESDAY..... CLOSED  
 THURSDAY..... 14:30 - 17:00  
 FRIDAY..... CLOSED  
 SATURDAY..... CLOSED  
 SUNDAY..... CLOSED