

Q: CAN I GET AIDS FROM KISSING?

A: No

- ***There is no evidence that saliva passes on the AIDS virus***

Because AIDS is known to be a disease passed on by sex, many people fear that any kind of physical contact can lead to AIDS virus infection.

In fact, only anal intercourse and vaginal intercourse have been shown to be risky in terms of virus transmission.

There is no evidence that kissing or oral sexual contact of any kind can pass on the AIDS virus. This is true of both homosexual and heterosexual sexual contact.

It is true that the AIDS virus has been shown to be present in saliva, at low levels. But there is no evidence that the virus is being passed on in this way.

It is possible, though this cannot be proved, that oral sex can pass on the virus in some circumstances. For this reason, you should avoid practices that allow semen (sperm), blood or vaginal fluids to enter your mouth. Risk may be increased if you have cuts or ulcers in your mouth, or bleeding gums. These could allow the virus to enter your bloodstream.

FIGHT THE FEAR WITH THE FACTS No 6.

For further information and advice about AIDS, call AIDSLINE on (03) 419 3166

This poster is based on a concept developed by the Victorian AIDS Council. It was designed and produced by Health Productions, Health Promotions Unit, Health Department of Victoria, June 1987.