



Dear Abby

September 3, 1985

Dear Dr. Gottlieb,

Thank you for your time and interest...it means a lot to us.

I thought I would list the questions below and give you an idea of the type of question our readers are asking. Some are doozies!

1. How long does the AIDS virus live in the air?
2. Has the careful screening of blood, reduced the influx of AIDS via transfusions?
3. If it is present in saliva, can it be passed on by a closed mouth kiss? What about a cough? What about a kleenex that an AIDS victim has used? Is that considered contaminated by the saliva?
4. If a non-AIDS person has a cut on a hand that is not covered by a bandaid is there the possibility that exposure to an AIDS victim can possibly infect him? (This is where the lay mind finds some difficulty understanding blood products and routes of entry.)
5. What about people who have many gay friends or family members...do they run a higher risk because they may been kissing these people for years?
6. Should a person who knows that they may have been to bed with a bisexual, have the blood test to determine if they may have contracted the disease.
7. What about tatoo needles? Needles used to pierce ears? Electrolysis?

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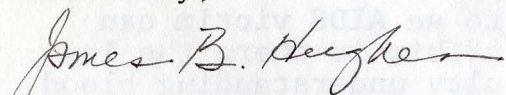
8. How about heterosexual couples who enjoy oral and anal sex, and don't use a condom, should they be concerned because one of the ways of transmission is through the sperm?
9. Dr. Leonard from the Disease center in Atlanta supposedly stated they could not guarantee that the Communion cup in churches was free of organisms. (I think he probably meant the normal bacterias..common cold, etc..don't you?)
10. When you say bodily fluids, does that also include urine and feces. If it does include those two, does a public toilet with dried urine present a danger?
11. What about open mouth kissing? Is all the hype about that necessary?
12. When a couple has had no other partner than their mate, can they enjoy the varied sexual acts with out worry?

I think that about sums it up Doctor. You may have a few that we have not encountered here, and please feel free to add or subtract as you feel it is necessary.

Needless to say, your input and generous cooperation enlightened millions of people, and Abby looks forward to your answers.

Personally, I would like to add my own heartfelt thanks for all you have done on behalf of AIDS victims.

Sincerely,



James B. Hughes, Assistant to
Abigail Van Buren