

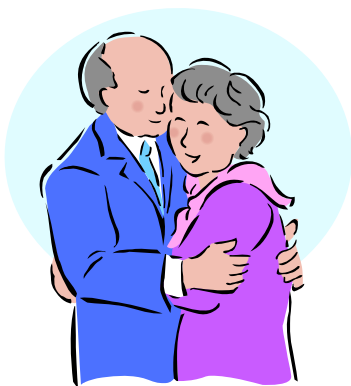
HIV BASICS

HIV, or Human Immunodeficiency Virus, is a virus that destroys a type of white blood cell called a CD4 cell. The main function of these cells is to fight off viruses, bacteria, and fungi that cause disease.

AIDS, or Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, is the final stage of HIV infection. The body's immune system has failed and will no longer fight off even mild infections.



HIV is transmitted through infected body fluids such as blood, semen, or vaginal secretions. HIV can also be passed from an infected mother to her baby during pregnancy, birth, and breastfeeding.



You cannot get HIV from touching or hugging someone who has HIV/AIDS. Also, you cannot get HIV from sharing utensils, restrooms, or exercise equipment with someone who has HIV/AIDS.