

Thursday 1 December 2011



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World AIDS Day is an annual day of action and observance designed to raise public awareness of the issues surrounding HIV and AIDS on a regional, national and global scale.

The red ribbon is an international symbol of HIV and AIDS.

HIV is a virus that can damage the body's defence system so that it cannot easily fight off certain infections. Once infected with HIV it stays in the body for life. If someone with HIV goes on to get certain illnesses, they are said to have AIDS.



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**The main ways HIV is
passed on are:**

**By having penetrative sex without a condom
with someone who has HIV;**

**By using needles, syringes or other drug injecting
equipment that is infected with HIV;**

**From a woman with HIV to her baby during pregnancy, at birth
or through breast feeding;**

**From unscreened and untreated transfusions of blood or blood
products (These are screened for HIV in the UK);**

**Oral sex carries a very low risk but if ulcerated or
bleeding gums come into contact with infected
bodily fluids HIV could be passed on.**



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For further information log on to:

www.thehivsupportcentre.org.uk

www.rainbow-project.org

www.tht.org.uk

www.avert.org

www.aidsmap.com

or call:

The National Sexual Health Helpline 0800 567 123
Health Improvement Department (WHSCT) 028 7186 5127

