

Public Health Points

York City Bureau of Health

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WORLD AIDS DAY – DECEMBER 1st

World AIDS Day, observed on December 1st every year, is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection.

Worldwide, AIDS has killed more than 25 million people between 1981 and 2007, and an estimated 33.2 million people live with HIV infection as of 2007, making it one of the most destructive epidemics in recorded history. Despite recent, improved access to antiretroviral treatment and care in many regions of the world, the AIDS epidemic claimed an estimated 2 million lives in 2007, of which about 270,000 were children.

For the second year in a row, the theme for World AIDS Day is “Getting to Zero” – a daunting call to action that HIV/AIDS leaders have taken on as a goal to tackle within a decade. Such a goal begs at least two broad-reaching questions – “What steps are needed to reach zero new HIV cases, zero deaths, and zero HIV-related discrimination?” and “What factors keep this reality out of the world’s grasp?”

Concerning the first question – What do we need to do to get to zero? – Some thoughts to consider include:

- Stop the prejudice and stigma
- Educate, educate, and educate
- Invest as if you mean it and focus on areas where it will do the most good
- Test a larger number and a broader range of people and treat everyone who is positive
- Get information out by using the new social media technologies – online Web sources, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube
- Address issues of poverty, ignorance, and disparity which drive people’s vulnerability to becoming infected with HIV

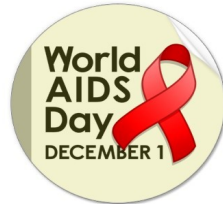
Concerning the second question – Getting to Zero: What Stands in the Way? – Some more thoughts to consider include:

- Lack of a cure or a preventive vaccine
- Continuing stigma and discrimination
- Lack of political will to devote the resources needed to address this disease
- Lack of individual will to be committed to prevention and to personal responsibility
- Complacency with things as they are
- Lack of willingness to address those factors that presently put people at risk for HIV infection
- Too many people who are positive don’t know they are positive and therefore continue to spread HIV infection

For more information about World AIDS Day, go to:

<http://www.chevron.com/AIDS>
<http://unaids.org/en>

www.who.int/hiv/en
www.cdc.gov/globalaids/



Reportable Conditions – 2012 City of York, Pa		
Reported Cases	Oct.	Total
Animal Bites	9	74
Campylobacter Enteritis	2	6
Chlamydia	40	457
Cryptosporidiosis	0	1
Gonorrhea	15	268
Hepatitis B	1	3
Hepatitis C	10	73
HIV Infection	0	13
Influenza, Type A	0	1
Influenza, Type B	0	3
Invasive Group A Beta-Strep Disease	0	2
Lead Poisoning	6	33
Legionellosis	0	2
Lyme Disease	0	3
Malaria	0	1
Meningitis – Aseptic	0	1
Meningitis – Bacterial	0	1
Pertussis	0	2
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection	3	41
Salmonellosis	0	7
Syphilis – Primary/Secondary	1	3
West Nile Virus – Human	0	1
Total Case Reports	87	996

Toy Safety Shopping Tips

As you stroll through the malls and cyberspace looking for those perfect gifts for your children, remember to shop with safety in mind. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reminds us that toys can be dangerous to our children if they are not chosen carefully. Last year, 140,700 kids were treated in America's hospital emergency rooms for toy-related injuries. Of those, 13 children lost their lives.

As a precaution, the agency has provided tips for parents to use while shopping for toys and gifts this holiday season. Follow these tips to keep your children safe.

Children Under Three (3) Years Old:

- Children under 3 tend to put everything in their mouths. Avoid buying toys intended for older children that may have small parts that pose a choking danger. Never let children of any age play with uninflated or broken balloons because of the choking danger.
- Avoid marbles, balls, and games with balls that have a diameter of 1.75 inches or less. These products also pose a choking hazard to young children.
- Children at this age pull, prod and twist toys. Look for toys that are well made with tightly secured eyes, noses and other parts.
- Avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.

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Children Ages Three (3) Through Five (5):

- Avoid toys that are constructed with thin, brittle plastic that might easily break into small pieces or leave jagged edges.
- Look for household art materials, including crayons and paint sets, marked with the designation “ASTM D-4236.” This means the product has been reviewed by a toxicologist and, if necessary, labeled with cautionary information.
- Teach older children to keep their toys away from their younger brothers and sisters.

Children Ages Six (6) Through Twelve (12):

- For all children, adults should check toys periodically for breakage and potential hazards. Damaged or dangerous toys should be repaired or thrown away.

- If buying a toy gun, be sure the barrel, or the entire gun, is brightly colored so that it’s not mistaken for a real gun.
- If you buy a bicycle for any age child, buy a helmet too, and make sure the child wears it.
- Teach all children to put toys away when they’re finished playing so they don’t trip over them or fall on them.

In addition to the tips and advice from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the online version of Consumer Reports also has Shopping Tips, Safety Tips, and advice on Playroom Safety.

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/babies-kids/school-age-kids/toys/toy-buying-advice/toy-safety-tips/toy-safety-tips.htm>