



Published on *Go Ask Alice!* (<https://goaskalice.columbia.edu>)

[Home](#) > [Condom = safer male to male oral sex?](#)

Condom = safer male to male oral sex? ^[1]

Dear Alice,

Is oral sex between two men considered unsafe if a condom is used? What are the HIV transmission statistics for this sort of activity if the people engaged in it are total strangers? Also, does french kissing place one at risk of infection?

— Repressed, depressed, & scared to act

Answer

Dear Repressed, depressed, & scared to act,

When it comes to the transmission of HIV, scary statistics can take all the fun out of sex. It's smart to be cautious, but you don't have to miss out on all the action. Many forms of sexual activity have a very low risk of HIV transmission, and other forms, including oral sex, can be made safer by donning a condom.

As for your specific questions, yes, latex condoms do offer protection and are effective in preventing the transmission of HIV. There are no known cases of HIV transmission through protected male-to-male oral sex. And no, french kissing does not place you at risk of infection, since HIV is not present in a high enough concentration in saliva for transmission. If the infected person has an open sore in his or her mouth, it is still unlikely that HIV will be transmitted because saliva has an inhibitory factor in it that is believed to hinder the virus.

It's worth clarifying that one partner must be HIV positive for transmission to occur. Getting tested, knowing your status, and then having an honest conversation with your partner about your sexual histories can lessen the fear factor before any rendez-vous. Whether you just met or have been doing it for ages, you'll both benefit from knowing your status.

These resources offer more information about gay men's sexual health and HIV transmission and testing:

- [Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance](#) ^[2] — GMSHA offers a variety of information and services for preventing HIV and living with AIDS, among other sexual health issues.
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention](#)

[3] — The latest news about HIV and AIDS research, treatment, and surveillance reports.

When it comes to safer sex, knowledge gives you the power to protect yourself and your partner.

Alice!

Category:

[Sexual & Reproductive Health](#) [4]

[Sexually Transmitted Infections \(STI's\)](#) [5]

[HIV/AIDS](#) [6]

Related questions

[HIV from kissing?](#) [7]

[How to ask your honey if they have any infections](#) [8]

[Crohn's disease and anal sex](#) [9]

[What is AIDS?](#) [10]

[Confused about HIV transmission statistics](#) [11]

[HIV from oral sex with no condoms?](#) [12]

Resources

[HIV Testing and Treatment \(Morningside\)](#) [13]

[Medical Services \(Morningside\)](#) [14]

[Medical Services \(CUIMC\)](#) [15]

Published date:

Apr 30, 1994

Last reviewed on:

Jul 26, 2015

Footer menu

▼ [Contact Alice!](#)

- [Content Use](#)
- [Media Inquiries](#)
- [Comments & Corrections](#)

▼ [Syndication & Licensing](#)

- [Licensing Q&As](#)
- [Get Alice! on Your Website](#)
- [Full Site Syndication](#)
- [Link to Go Ask Alice!](#)

Go Ask Alice! is not an emergency or instant response service.

If you are in an urgent situation, please [visit our Emergency page](#) to view a list of 24 hour support

services and hotlines.

Source URL: <https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/answered-questions/condom-safer-male-male-oral-sex>

Links

- [1] <https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/answered-questions/condom-safer-male-male-oral-sex>
- [2] <http://www.gmsh.ca/>
- [3] <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/nchstp.html>
- [4] <https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/category/sexual-reproductive-health>
- [5] <https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/category/sexually-transmitted-infections-stis>
- [6] <https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/category/hivaids>
- [7] <https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/answered-questions/hiv-kissing>
- [8] <https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/answered-questions/how-ask-your-honey-if-they-have-any-infections>
- [9] <https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/answered-questions/crohns-disease-and-anal-sex>
- [10] <https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/answered-questions/what-aids>
- [11] <https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/answered-questions/confused-about-hiv-transmission-statistics>
- [12] <https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/answered-questions/hiv-oral-sex-no-condoms-0>
- [13] <https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/resource/hiv-testing-and-treatment-morningside>
- [14] <https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/resource/medical-services-morningside>
- [15] <https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/resource/medical-services-cuimc>