

How long after unprotected sex should I go for HIV tests to be 100% sure?

A 100 % certain result can be achieved from a test that is done in 3 months after this risky event, not earlier.

What is an immunological window?

It is the period of 3 months after contracting HIV in which antibodies cannot be verified in the blood yet. An infected person can transmit it to others without knowing he's positive.

I heard there's an HIV test that I can buy at the pharmacy and do it myself at home.

It is possible to buy such tests to determine the presence of HIV antibodies from saliva or capillary blood; these kinds of tests are called self tests (HIV self test) but are reserved for medical professionals. If you buy them, you could experience a false-positive because it can respond to other antibodies. This kind of result is called reactive and must be repeated in an accredited laboratory (e.g., State Institute of Health). The test can be anonymous and is free. If the test is positive, another test is done to verify the presence of HIV in the blood.

So far I have only had safe sex, but I have heard that French kissing poses a risk as well.

Yes, because the saliva of an HIV-positive person contains the HIV virus, but small concentrations should not lead to infection. There is a risk of blood contact when the lips, mouth, or tongue are injured.

How long will the HIV stay alive in the body?

If there is blood or semen on a public toilet seat and someone sits on it, there is not be any transmission, as the virus will have already died and will not enter the body through broken skin.

Is a condom enough to protect against HIV?

Yes, if used correctly throughout sexual intercourse, then it protects against HIV.