

Teacher Reference for Don't Be Clueless: STD Mystery Bag

Bar of Soap

Signifies the helpfulness of showering before and after sexual contact. Washing the sexual organs may help to reduce the risk of infection by removing some germs, especially in males. However, students should be reminded that this method is not effective used alone, but in conjunction with other preventive measures. Some germs may penetrate the skin or mucous membranes before a person has a chance to wash.

Toy Needle/Syringe

Signifies the importance of avoiding the use of sharing of intravenous drugs and/or having sexual contact with an individual who is known to be an IV drug user. “Using” impairs judgement and may weaken the immune system; “sharing” runs the risk of direct HIV transmission, as well as the transmission of syphilis and/or hepatitis B and C.

Condoms

Signify the importance of using a condom with every act of intercourse. The condom is one of the best ways to avoid getting an STD. When put on before contact and removed the right way, the condom provides excellent, although not 100%, protection.

Can of Foam

Signifies the protective effect that spermicides can have, due to their ability to help kill some of the STD germs. Products with nonoxynol-9 have recently been found to destroy HIV in the laboratory setting. Students should be cautioned that foam alone also does not offer complete protection against infection.

Cassette Tape or Small Megaphone or Toy Telephone or Letter

Signifies the importance of communication in any relationship in which sexual intercourse or other intimate sexual contact may take place. Students should be reminded that it is important for them to be as honest as possible with a potential partner about their own sexual history and current state of health. They should also be reminded that in order to reduce the risk of acquiring an STD, it is equally important to find out from a potential partner what his/her sexual status is.

Roll of Toilet Paper

Signifies the fact that urination immediately before and after intercourse may help to remove germs that may be present in the urethra. However, once again, students should be reminded that this method should not be used alone, but in conjunction with other preventive measures, in order to be effective.

Light Bulb or Flashlight or Candle

In order to reduce their risk of acquiring an STD, they should be looking for genital rashes, blisters or sores in the area of the genitals, or mouth, or a discharge from the genitals before sexual contact occurs. What a person sees should be discussed since it could be highly infectious.