St. Elizabeth HEALTHCARE

What you should know about AIDS:

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). It attaches to the body's immune system and makes the body susceptible to a variety of illnesses.

Treatment has made it a chronic disease, but there is no cure or vaccine.

AIDS can be spread by:

- Sexual contact or other high risk behavior with an infected person where blood or body fluids are shared
- Sharing a syringe / needle with an infected person
- An infected mother passing the virus to her child before or during childbirth
- Receiving contaminated blood or blood products (rare)

AIDS is not spread by:

- Sharing food, utensils or plates
- Using public restrooms
- Shaking hands or touching someone with HIV
- Donating blood
- Insect bites

AIDS can be prevented by:

- Safe sex practices
- Not sharing syringes or blood/body fluids with other persons
- Education
- HIV testing in pregnancy

Detailed information can be obtained from the Northern Kentucky Independent District Health Department, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Management (859) 341- 4264; Centers for Disease Control www.cdc.gov or the Infection Control Department (859) 301- 2155