

HIV and AIDS

*HIV: Human Immuno
Deficiency Virus
AIDS: Acquired Immune
Deficiency Syndrome*



MYTH:

I can become infected if my roommate is HIV positive.

FACT:

In the fifteen years since this disease was identified, no one has become infected by sharing living space with another person.



MYTH:

If I am HIV infected, I must tell my roommate, employer, coworkers or professors.

FACT:

New York State and SUNY Potsdam have very strict confidentiality procedures regarding disclosure of HIV status. You are not legally required to inform any of the above people of your status. Disclosure is your choice and right.

MYTH:

If I am HIV infected, I can no longer work and visit my friends.

FACT:

AIDS is not a casual contact disease. As long as you feel well, you may maintain your usual routine. With an impaired immune system, you are more at risk of contacting an infection from co-workers or friends than infecting them.