

Exposure to dried semen or vaginal fluid

1. What is dried semen and vaginal fluid?

Semen is bodily fluid that can be ejaculated (released) from the penis during sexual excitement. Vaginal fluid is a bodily fluid that can be released by the vagina during menstruation, breastfeeding, sexual excitement, and other times. Air can dry semen and vaginal fluid in less than 20 minutes.

2. Can I get sick from contact with dried semen or vaginal fluid?

No. There are no known cases of illness or disease from contact with dried semen or vaginal fluid. Contact with dried semen or vaginal fluid includes:

- Touching it
- Getting it on your skin, eyes, or in your mouth

You can't get HIV or sexually transmitted infections or diseases like syphilis, gonorrhea, or chlamydia from contact with air-dried semen or vaginal fluid. You can't get sick with these diseases if you touch or get dried semen or vaginal fluid on your hands.

3. Should I be concerned about contact with dried semen or vaginal fluid?

There is no risk of any type of illness from contact with dried semen or vaginal fluid. If you have concerns or questions, talk to a healthcare provider. If you don't have a healthcare provider, call 2-1-1 for information on a local clinic in your area.

Key Points:

- You can't get HIV or sexually transmitted diseases or infections from contact with dried semen or vaginal fluid.
- If you have concerns or questions, talk to a healthcare provider or call 2-1-1 to find a local clinic in your area.

For more information:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/default.htm>

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Division of STD and HIV

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp/InfoForYou.htm>