# MERIES

Herpes is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) with no cure. But it can be easily prevented if you know the facts.

## FAST FACTS

- Herpes Type 1 mostly infects mouth and lips
  - Herpes Type 2 infects the genitals
- One in five people over the age of 12 in the U.S. have herpes type 2

### PUTTING TOURSELF AT RISK

Vagi<del>nal, oral or anal sex with an infected person puts you at risk.</del>

Skin to skin contact can also spread infection. Condoms only protect the areas they cover.

Oral sex can spread herpes type 1 from mouth to genitals.

## LOOKING FOR SIGNS/SYMPTOMS

Herpes Type 1 - Cold sores on mouth and lips

Herpes Type 2 - Painful blisters on the genitals (penis or vagina) or anus. The blisters are filled with a clear liquid that carries the infection.

The blisters come and go up to five times a year. Risk of spreading the infection can be high even when there are no blisters.

## HOW MERPES AFFECTS YOUR HEALTH

Infected people feel pain and itching from blisters. They are more likely to get or spread HIV/AIDS.

Herpes can be fatal to newborn babies.

#### TREATING HERPES

There is no cure for herpes. Medicine can make the blisters less painful, but you are still infected.

# PREVENTING HERPES

- · Avoid all sexual contact
- Have sex with only one, uninfected partner who only has sex with you
- Use a condom during all types of sexual contact—vaginal, oral or anal
- Get tested once a year by your doctor or at a clinic

