

The Pozitive Post

Pozitive Pathways letter to Santa

Dear Santa,

This time of year, can be hard on some of our community members. This year our wish is to stop Stigma. Stigma is a complex social process of labeling, stereotyping, devaluing, and discrimination. Stigma can affect all walks of life and statistics show that stigmatization prevents people from seeking support and help. During this holiday our staff at Pozitive Pathways Community Services (PPCS) hopes are to focus on two forms of stigma that affect our neighbors, friends and family. Stigmatization of people living with, affected by, or at-risk of HIV, HEP C and other sexually transmitted blood-borne infections (STBBIs) and stigmatization of people who use substances. Stigma and discrimination affect the emotional well-being and mental health of people in our community. This year our Holiday wish is to spread some all inclusive spirit by encouraging people from our community to join us, in our efforts to combat stigma. Language is so important and our Yellow Umbrella Needle Syringe Program (NSP) elves and PPCS staff have been working hard this year and want to gift a resource to help spread the non-stigmatization joy. Everyone can help by changing our language surrounding stigma. Wouldn't it be magical if it started in our community and traveled internationally to allow more support for our friends, family and neighbours?



Happy Holidays!

Sincerely, Pozitive Pathways Community Services

Ask The Educator

You can submit your questions for ask the Educator via email, educationoutreach@pozitivepathways.com by calling our office, (519) 973-0222 and entering extension 116, 118 or 119.

Dear Educator, Why does Pozitive Pathways give out so many needles?

In order to prevent infection in people who inject substances best harm reductions practices state that people who inject substances (PWIS) should use a sterile needle every time. Many people who inject substances need to do several times a day. Our best available data shows that NSPs are effective for preventing diseases. Low rates of blood borne infections benefit the entire community. Health care costs are reduced - it's much less expensive to prevent blood-borne infections than treat them. There is less demand on the health care system and a much lower chance of other people becoming infected.

Blood-borne infections can be transmitted when blood or body fluid from an infected person enters another person's body. This can happen through activities other than injection drug use. People who inject drugs are members of our communities and come from all "walks of life" – they may be your co-workers, your sex partners, your neighbours – by reducing the rates of blood-borne infections among people who inject drugs it helps reduce the risk of transmission in the larger community.

Thank you for your question,

Lacie Krzemien, Harm Reduction Outreach Coordinator

Ask our Education and Outreach Team questions about best practices, supports and referrals.



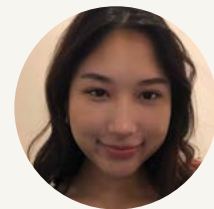
Kristen Dwyer
Harm Reduction Education
Coordinator



Rebecca Friesen
Outreach Support Coordinator



Lacie Krzemien
Harm Reduction Outreach
Coordinator



Maddie YIM
Women and HIV Outreach
Coordinator

Instead of saying this:

Say this:

Substance/drug abuse, Problematic use/misuse	Substance/drug dependence, Substance/drug consumption, Substance use disorder (if diagnosed)
Substance/drug user, Addict, Junkie, Druggie, Abuser	Person who uses substances/drugs, Person with substance use disorder (if diagnosed), Person with lived/living experience with substance use
Person who is clean, Person who has been clean Former addict, Former abuser, Former junkie, Former druggie	Person in recovery, Person who is sober, Person who is abstinent Person who has lived experience with substance use, Person no longer using substances
Relapse	Return to use
Clean drug screen, Dirty drug screen	Negative drug screen, Positive drug screen
AIDS (when referring to the virus, HIV)	HIV, HIV and AIDS (when referring to both)
To catch AIDS, To catch HIV, To pass on HIV	To be diagnosed with HIV, To acquire HIV, To transmit HIV
Unprotected sex	Sex without a condom or medicines to prevent or treat HIV (such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or antiretroviral therapy)
AIDS patient, HIV patient, Patient	Person with AIDS, Person with HIV

DECEMBER 2023: Calendar Dates

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>Did You Know... That we can deliver harm reduction supplies direct to you. It's free and can be anonymous, if you choose. Simply call or text our mobile number, (519) 257-9646 or email us at harmreduction@pozitivepathways.com.</p>			<p>*Check Website for Time & Location Details pozitivepathways.com</p>		<p>1 World AIDS Day Mobile Delivery in Chatham-Kent 11:00am to 3:00pm Awareness Walk 12:40pm to 1:00pm World AIDS Flag Raising at City Hall 1:00pm Community Vigil at Windsor Armouries 1:30pm to 4:30pm</p>	2
3	4	5 H4 NSP Outreach and Education 10:30am to 12:30pm	6 Mobile Delivery in Windsor-Essex 1:00pm to 4:00pm	7	8 Mobile Delivery in Chatham-Kent 11:00am to 3:00pm	9
10	11	12 H4 NSP Outreach and Education 1:30pm to 3:30pm	13 Mobile Delivery in Windsor-Essex 1:00pm to 4:00pm	14	15 Mobile Delivery in Chatham-Kent 11:00am to 3:00pm	16
17	18	19 H4 NSP Outreach and Education 10:30am to 12:30pm	20 Mobile Delivery in Windsor-Essex 1:00pm to 4:00pm	21 Mobile Delivery in Chatham-Kent 11:00am to 3:00pm	22	23 HOLIDAY SHUTDOWN: DEC 23 rd - JAN 2 nd
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
HOLIDAY SHUTDOWN: DEC 23 rd - JAN 2 nd						
31						