Harm Reduction, COVID-19 and Sex Workers: Office Hours with Harm Reduction Coalition

Harm Reduction Coalition
April 22, 2020
Flattening the Curve and Sex Workers

- Why should we do this? How can we explain this to ourselves, pts, clients?

Source: CDC

IMPERIAL COLLEGE COVID19 REPORT
Today’s Panelists & Moderators

**Moderators**
- Kacey Byczek, Regional Capacity Building Manager, nHRC (Louisville, KY)
- Savannah O’Neill, Capacity Building & Community Mobilization Manager, nHRC (Oakland, CA)

**Panelists**
- Mistress Blunt (New York, NY)
- TS Candii, DecrimNY & VOCAL NY (New York, NY)
- Clay Kasper, Central Arkansas Harm Reduction Project (Little Rock, AR)
- Caty Simon, Whose Corner Is It Anyway? (MA)
COVID-19 and Sex Work

- Risks are highest being close to someone with COVID for >10 minutes
- COVID-19 has not been detected in semen/vaginal secretions, however has been detected in feces and blood; use barriers as much as possible
- If possible avoid kissing, close face to face contact
- Engage regular clients as much as possible, if you can say no to someone who looks or sounds ill, please do
- Wash hands and shower before and after each booking
- Access digital platforms if available
Sex and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

All New Yorkers should stay home and minimize contact with others to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

But can you have sex?
Here are some tips for how to enjoy sex and to avoid spreading COVID-19.

   - You can get COVID-19 from a person who has it.
     - The virus can spread to people who are within about 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 when that person coughs or sneezes.
     - The virus can spread through direct contact with their saliva or mucus.
   - We still have a lot to learn about COVID-19 and sex.
     - COVID-19 has not yet been found in semen or vaginal fluid.
     - We know that other coronaviruses do not efficiently transmit through sex.

2. Have sex with people close to you.
   - You are your safest sex partner. Masturbation will not spread COVID-19, especially if you wash your hands (and any sex toys) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after sex.
   - The next safest partner is someone you live with. Having close contact — including sex — with only a small circle of people helps prevent spreading COVID-19. Have sex only with consenting partners.
   - You should avoid close contact — including sex — with anyone outside your household. If you do have sex with others, have as few partners as possible.
   - If you usually meet your sex partners online or make a living by having sex, consider taking a break from in-person dates. Video dates, sexting or chat rooms may be options for you.
Resources as Guidelines

- [https://www.virusanxiety.com/](https://www.virusanxiety.com/)
- [NYC United Against Coronavirus - Resources and Information](https://nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/Resources-and-Information)
- [Database of Localized Resources](https://bit.ly/COVID19Database)
Sex Work-specific resources

- [Notes on Coronavirus & Sex Work](#), SWOP
- [U.S. Based COVID-19 Sex Worker Resources](#), Coyote RI
- Info on mutual aid networks for sex workers [here](#)
- [The Nation article](#) on mutual aid by sex workers in the time of COVID-19
- Again, [NYCDOHMH safer sex and COVID-19 guide](#)
QUESTIONS?
Send us Resources for a COVID SSP support Document!!

COVID19@
HARMREDUCTION.ORG