

EDUCATOR RESOURCE—SAFER SEX NEGOTIATION SCENARIOS

Problem:	Potential Solutions:
<p>Maya only wants to have sex if a condom is used.</p> <p>Tai is allergic to latex and says he cannot use condoms.</p>	<p>Tai may not know that there are such thing as non-latex condoms. If Tai is allergic to latex, he could do research on alternative options.</p> <p>Maya can also point out that there are non-latex, polyurethane condoms that protect from pregnancy and STBBIs and that she would like to try these with Tai.</p>
<p>Nadia says she is not ready to have sex yet but she is comfortable with making-out.</p> <p>Ally suggests having oral sex as a compromise since she feels it does not count as “real sex” and Nadia could still claim she is a virgin.</p>	<p>Nadia has stated what she is comfortable with sexually and this does not include oral sex. Ally is pressuring Nadia by using heterosexist virginity myths about what is and is not sex. It is unclear whether Ally is purposefully being manipulative or if she really believes the heterosexist myths. Either way, it is coercive.</p> <p>Nadia could re-state what she is comfortable with and be clear with Ally that to her, oral sex is still sex.</p>

Problem:

Potential Solutions:

Molly is non-monogamous. She has one regular sexual partner named Noel and another, newer sexual partner named Lanie. Molly and Noel have been dating for a long time and they never use condoms when having sex because Molly is on the pill.

Lanie wants Molly to get tested before they start having sex.

Just because Molly and Noel have been dating for a long time and Molly is taking oral contraceptives to prevent pregnancy, does not mean that they should not use condoms. Condoms prevent against STBBIs and pregnancy.

Molly and Noel can both get tested for STBBIs. If Molly does not want to get tested, Lanie can either set sexual and physical boundaries that she feels comfortable with and/or ask to use dental dams and finger condoms, or break-up with Molly.

Sterling says he hates the feel of condoms.

Nia is not comfortable having penetrative sex without a condom.

The bottom line here is that Nia is not comfortable having penetrative sex without a condom. Sterling does not have any grounds for negotiation and needs to respect what Nia wants (to use a condom if having penetrative sex). Otherwise, there is no consent.

Nia may propose that they could have non-penetrative sex without a condom but this is also not necessary. If Sterling wants to have penetrative sex with Nia he will have to use condoms (for the entire time or else there is no consent) and figure out ways to make wearing a condom a more pleasurable experience for him. For instance, a couple drops of water-based lubricant added to the inside of the condom and extra lubricant on the outside could make it a more pleasurable experience for him and for Nia.

Problem:

Eve has never had sexual intercourse before but Bren has. Eve does not feel like she needs to use condoms as long as Bren pulls out in time.

Bren says he does not need to pull out because Eve just had her period.

Potential Solutions:

Eve has stated what her comfort level is in using the withdrawal method and Bren needs to respect this. By telling her why he does not need to pull-out, Bren is being coercive and manipulative.

Just because Eve has never had sexual intercourse before, does not mean that she cannot get an STBBI. This is especially the case if Bren has had sexual intercourse before. If Eve and Bren both want to and are committed to using the withdrawal method, they need to communicate about and get STBBI testing.

They also need to know that there is still a 22% chance of getting pregnant (typical use of withdrawal).

Eve can re-state her boundary and if Bren does not respect this boundary, then he does not have her consent to proceed.

Problem:

Potential Solutions:

Max has never had sex and is really nervous about STBBIs. Max told their new partner Flo that they would feel more comfortable having sex if Flo got tested first.

STBBIs are very common and many are asymptomatic. Flo could have an STBBI and not know it. Getting tested is in Flo's best interest as well as Max's.

Flo has had two previous sexual partners and assured Max that they know they do not have an STBBI, even though they have never gotten tested. They are insulted that Max wants them to get tested because they feel like Max thinks that they are dirty and cannot be trusted.

Max could assure Flo that it is not because they think Flo is dirty or that they cannot be trusted, it is because STBBIs are common and even though many are asymptomatic, they can still be transmitted if undetected and untreated.

Carli wants to get tested with Lana before they start having sex.

Carli can respond to Lana by saying that queer cisgender women can get STBBIs. Lana is making a big assumption: that queer cisgender women do not have vaginal or anal intercourse with a penis. Even if true in this scenario, other kinds of sexual activity still put queer cisgender women at risk of STBBIs.

Lana says that because they are both queer cisgender women she does not feel like they need to be tested before they start having sex.

Noah and Davi are ready to take their relationship to the "next level."

Noah and Davi need to have a conversation about what the euphemism "taking it to the next level" means for each of them.

For Noah, this means having anal sex. For Davi, this means oral sex.

Once this is established, they will need to come to a compromise in line with what each of their boundaries and desires are before moving forward.

Problem:

Potential Solutions:

Kat is on the oral contraceptive pill so she doesn't think she and her partner need to use a condom to have sex.

Nav would like to use a condom to have sex but is afraid Kat will think it means he does not trust her or that he cannot be trusted.

Nav can tell Kat that wanting to wear a condom isn't about not trusting her. Either of them could have been exposed to an STBBI from previous partners and not know it because STBBIs are common and often asymptomatic. A condom will protect both of them. Nav can also suggest that both him and Kat get STBBI testing so that they know for sure whether or not they have an STBBI.

Cal has herpes but doesn't currently have an outbreak so he says he doesn't need to use a condom.

Bria would still like him to use a condom but is afraid Cal will think she's judging him for having herpes.

It is possible that Cal doesn't think that his herpes is contagious when he doesn't have visible symptoms but he should ask Bria what she is comfortable with so that she can decide.

Bria can ask Cal to wear a condom and preface the conversation by saying that it isn't about judgment, she is worried about asymptomatic viral shedding that occurs even when there is no herpes outbreak. Asymptomatic viral shedding is one of the ways that herpes is transmitted.

Problem:

Felix says there's no need to use a condom for anal sex since there's no risk of pregnancy.

Ashton still wants Felix to use a condom.

Potential Solutions:

While pregnancy is one risk that comes with being sexually active, STBBIs are another. Condoms are very effective in reducing the risk of STBBI transmission during anal sex.

Ashton can give Felix this information and ask Felix to wear a condom. If Felix still doesn't want to wear one, he doesn't have Ashton's consent to proceed.
