
EDUCATOR ANSWER KEY—CONDOM STATEMENT SETS

STATEMENT SET 1

- a) **Condoms make sex less pleasurable.** ✗

Some people love condoms and other people do not—some find sex more pleasurable with a condom because they do not have to worry about pregnancy, STBBIs and/or ejaculate/semen going everywhere. Other people find that sex is less pleasurable because they miss the skin-to-skin sensation. There are lots of other things that affect pleasure for both partners besides whether someone is wearing a condom.

- b) **Condoms (external and internal) and abstinence are the only forms of contraception that provide dual protection from both pregnancy and STBBIs.** ✓

Both external and internal condoms provide dual protection from pregnancy and STBBIs. Condoms are the only dual protection aside from 100% abstinence. Lambskin (external) condoms protect against pregnancy, but not STBBIs.

- c) **The most commonly used contraceptive methods among youth are condoms, withdrawal method, and the oral contraceptive pill.** ✓

Young people tend to mostly use condoms, the withdrawal method, and oral contraceptives.



STATEMENT SET 2

- a) **Condoms are available without a prescription.** ✓

You do not need a prescription for condoms. You can find condoms (both external and internal) over the counter at the pharmacy. Internal condoms tend to be more expensive than external condoms.

- b) **Condoms last forever.** ✗

All condoms have an expiration. Using an expired condom can lead to the condom breaking and the contraception failing. Always check the expiry date on a condom before using it.

- c) **The withdrawal method requires constant communication between partners during sex.** ✓

Communication between sexual partners before, during, and after sex is always important but for the withdrawal method to have a chance at being successful, good communication skills are even more crucial. The withdrawal method has a high failure rate and depends on many factors, including the control of the individual with the penis to know when to withdraw. The couple must also be aware of the partner's menstrual cycle and when they are more and less fertile.

STATEMENT SET 3

- a) **Communication is important before, during, and after any kind of sexual activity.** ✓

All sexual activity requires communication between partners. Communication is one of the central ingredients for ensuring pleasure for all partners. While communication about sex can feel awkward or uncomfortable, it can make sex more physically, emotionally, mentally, and socially comfortable before, during, and after sexual activity. Communication is key for practising consent and it is essential for establishing how to have safer sex.

- b) **If you communicate about using a condom during sex and then remove the condom part way through without communicating, the sex becomes non-consensual.** ✓

Removing a condom during sex without talking to your partner(s) (commonly called “stealth sex”) is a form of non-consensual sex (i.e., sexual assault) and a violation of bodily autonomy. The prevalence and normalization of this form of sexual violence (e.g., online forums with tips on how to remove a condom without consent) is an example of rape culture. (For more information, see modules 8.2, 8.3, and 8.4).



- c) **If the condom goes on the penis after penetration (but before ejaculation) there is no risk of pregnancy and STBBIs.** ✗

If you put a condom on after penetration, even if it is before ejaculation, there is still a risk of STBBI transmission, although the risk is lower than it would be if ejaculation happened without a condom. There is also a risk of pregnancy; there can be enough sperm in pre-ejaculate to cause a pregnancy; however, the likelihood of pregnancy from pre-ejaculate is less than from ejaculation.

STATEMENT SET 4

- a) **If a condom breaks during penis-vagina intercourse, there is no reason to be concerned about pregnancy.** ✗

If a condom breaks during penis-vagina intercourse, pregnancy is a concern as are STBBIs. If a condom breaks and you do not want to get pregnant, it is recommended that you consider emergency contraception. Oral emergency contraception can be taken up to 5 days but decrease with effectiveness each day. There is also the option of having an emergency copper IUD placement, which must be done within 7 days to prevent pregnancy. This may be a good option for those who have already been considering getting an IUD. If you are concerned about STBBIs, it is recommended that you seek STBBI testing.

- b) **Ensuring that you have condoms on hand is the responsibility of all partners.** ✓
If using condoms, regardless of gender identity and assigned sex, it is important that all partners take responsibility for acquiring, storing, and/or carrying condoms with them. To prevent breakage, do not store condoms in direct sunlight and keep them away from sharp objects.
- c) **When using lubricant “lube” with latex condoms, it needs to be water-based or silicone-based.** ✓
Water-based and silicone-based lube is appropriate to use with latex condoms. Oil-based lube can cause latex condoms to break.

STATEMENT SET 5

- a) **It is important to be well-lubricated before anything goes into the vagina or anus.** ✓
Genital and anal lubrication often happens as a result of arousal. The amount of vaginal lubrication (if you have a vagina) and pre-ejaculate (if you have a penis) and anal lubrication varies person to person. Everyone’s bodies are different and produce a different amount of lubrication at different times. Lubrication is very helpful in terms of comfort and pleasure when inserting anything into the vagina or anus. People often need more lubrication than what the body produces when aroused and this is where lubricant (“lube”) can help increase pleasure and prevent condom breakage.
- b) **Extra lube can increase pleasure and prevent the condom from breaking.** ✓
Everyone’s bodies are different and produce a different amount of lubrication at different times. Lubrication is very helpful in terms of comfort and pleasure when inserting anything into the vagina or anus. While the uses are numerous, lube is an essential component of good condom use. For condoms, it is essential to use water-based lubricant as opposed to oil-based lubricant, which can break down the integrity of the condom. While some condoms come pre-lubricated, additional lubrication should still be used when available to avoid tearing the condom. For extra lubrication and pleasure for the penis, a small amount of lubrication (one to two drops) can also be applied inside of the condom before application.
- c) **Wearing two condoms is a good idea because it provides extra protection.** ✗
Wearing two condoms is not a good idea because it will create friction and is more likely to lead to the condom breaking. Dual protection refers to using two types of contraceptives to prevent against both STBBIs and pregnancy (not two of the same). For instance, if you are taking oral contraceptive pills and wear an external and/or internal condom to protect from STBBIs.



STATEMENT SET 6

- a) **External condoms can be found at most drugstores, grocery stores, pharmacies, and convenience stores.** ✓

External condoms can be found at most drugstores, grocery stores, pharmacies, and convenience stores and cost between \$7 to \$30 per box depending on the brand and how many condoms are in a box. External condoms can also be found for free at community health centres and sexual health clinics.

- b) **If a pregnancy test comes out positive, there is a chance you aren't pregnant.** ✗

If a test is taken sooner, it may result in a false negative. With pregnancy tests, it is rare to have false positives; however, false negatives can happen. A false negative can happen if the test is taken too early and there is not yet enough HCG (pregnancy hormone) in the urine. If a period is missed and/or if someone is worried about pregnancy, it is best to wait approximately 2 to 3 weeks after last sexual intercourse to take a pregnancy test. (If you are concerned about a false negative, the test can be redone in 1 to 2 weeks).

- c) **It is important to pinch the tip of the condom as you place it on a penis.** ✓

It is important to pinch the tip of the condom as you place it on a penis. This allows room for the ejaculate. Without this room, the condom is more likely to break and be ineffective.

