

NOLA Pride Weekend
photos by Hubert S.
Monkeys



What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
 - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
 - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
 - Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
 - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
 - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
 - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- ◆ **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- ◆ **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ◆ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



Have you heard about
TRUVADA for PrEP™?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

visit **start.truvada.com**

 **Truvada**
emtricitabine 200 mg / tenofovir
disoproxil fumarate 300 mg tablets
for **PrEP** pre-exposure prophylaxis



(tru-VAH-dah)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the "How To Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP™ (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



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under the gaydar

by Tony Leggio
Email: ledgemgp@gmail.com
Photo by: Larry Graham

Hot Happenings

I love the month of July, there are so many things to do and summer is full on! Here are just a few of the hot (literally) happenings coming up.

Wednesday, July 5, 2017

I love seeing movies in unique spaces. The Catahoula Bar (914 Union Street) is presenting their Rooftop Cinema and it is a great one – “But I’m A Cheerleader.” Get your gay on and come out to see this fabulous movie starting at 8 p.m.

Friday, July 7, 2017

Miss Gay Four Seasons LA USofA is the first preliminary to Miss Gay Louisiana USofA 2018 at will be at the Four Seasons Bar (3229 N. Causeway Blvd). There is a \$10 cover and doors open at 7 p.m. This pageant has helped produce the last two Miss Gay Louisiana USofAs! The theme is It’s All About and Asian Night. At 8 p.m. the pageant will begin.

Friday – Sunday, July 7 – 9, 2017

The 10th Annual Running of the Bulls at San Fermin in Nueva Orleans (SFNO) is the city’s most incredible Summer Spectacle! Join thousands of runners as they roam the streets of New Orleans and party with hundreds of Rollerbulls (roller derby skaters with horns on their helmets and plastic bats in their hands) from around the globe during the Encierro. There are several events that are both ticketed and free and open to the public. The number one event is the actual running of the bulls (or Rollergirls) on Saturday morning. For tickets and more information, go to [www. http://nolabulls.com](http://nolabulls.com).

Saturday, July 8, 2017

It is that time of the year for one of the most fun and festive fundraisers in the city – the 3rd Annual Johnny Passion’s Smatch Game fund raiser for Southern Decadence. The event takes place at 10:30 p.m. at the Allways

Lounge (2240 St. Claude Avenue). This year, there will be new celebrity panelists and judges as well as some fun production numbers. General admission is \$15.

Saturday, July 8, 2017

Come watch male contestants show a little leg for charity at Mr. Legs XVII Presented by Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust at Generations Hall (310 Andrew Higgins Blvd.) starting at 6 p.m. The contestant that raises the most money for Bridge House Grace House through ticket sales, sponsors, or donations is awarded the coveted title of Mr. Legs. The 2017 Emcees are Mike Hoss & Natalie Shepherd. Prizes are also awarded for best costume, hairiest legs, sexiest legs, and more categories. The event features food, a complementary bar from 6-8 PM, music, a raffle, and silent auction. Named one of the Best 11 Parties in New Orleans in 2015 by NOLA.com. For tickets, go to www.bridgehouse.org.

Friday, July 14, 2017

The Lords of Leather is hosting their Bastille Day Beer Bust at the Phoenix *(941 Elysian Fields). Vive La France!! Show your “oui oui” and get a free Jello Shot! Of course, we will let you ‘eat cake’ too! Cake by Suga By M@! Historically - The storming of the Bastille (jail) was a turning point in the French Revolution against Louis 16th and Marie Antoinette (who is credited for saying, “let them [the poor] eat cake.”) And who doesn’t love their cake eaten? There is a \$10 donation which gets you unlimited Keg Beer, cheesy poofs, sodas (if you prefer) and of course, Leather Love and Laughter! Proceeds go toward Bal Masque XXXV to be held on Sunday, February 11, 2018!

Saturday, July 15, 2017

The Friday Night Before Mardi Gras is hosting a sexy fun fundraiser for the LGBTQ community entitled Blast Off/

Splash Down: A Sexy Pool Party In Space. The event takes place at Maison De Mccarty (3820 Burgundy St.) from 6 – 10 p.m. For \$20 you receive admission, door, all you can drink, and food an astronaut would circle the moon for! You like surf rock? We got surf rock! Courtesy of the phenomenal band Ghost Coast! Come splash around for a good cause, or just cause! Buy tickets for all our parties AND 2018: A Space Oddity Ball, go to www.fridaynightbeforemardigras.com.

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Get ready for the Lords of Leather Annual Luau at 3026 North Rampart from 2 – 6 p.m. There is a \$15 ticketed donation in advance, \$20 donation at the door! The event features Mr. Nude Orleans! Come for an afternoon of burgers, hot dogs, snacks, drinks (yep, those kinds of drinks too) and a cool/refreshing swimming pool. There will be auction items available, and, the \$1,000 Cash Winning Raffle Ticket will be drawn! Proceeds go toward Bal Masque XXXV!

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

The Catahoula Bar (914 Union Street) is presenting their Rooftop Cinema and just in time for Tales of the Cocktail with their showing of what else - “Cocktail.” Get your drink on and come out to see the movie starting at 8 p.m. Tom Cruise is waiting.

Friday July 21, 2017

In conjunction with the exhibition “Pride of Place: The Making of Contemporary Art in New Orleans”, five films by iconic movie director and artist John Waters will be screened in Stern Auditorium throughout the summer. Waters’ photography is featured in the exhibition. All movies start at 7 p.m. beginning with Pink Flamingos (1972). FREE to NOMA Members and teens (13-19) | \$12.00 adults | \$10.00 seniors (65+) & active military with ID | \$8.00 university students with ID | \$6.00 children (7-12).

From Rottentomatoes.com: “Renegade filmmaker and noted aficionado of expressive bad taste John Waters exploded into international infamy with this darkly comic, no-budget parade of the perverse (his third feature film, and first in color), in which plus-size cross-dresser Divine stars as Babs Johnson, a flashy criminal on the lam from the FBI who is hiding out in a trailer outside of Baltimore, Maryland. While Babs would prefer to be left in peace, she takes great pride in her status as ‘the Filthiest Person Alive’ — an honor confirmed by one of America’s sleazier tabloid newspapers — and when Connie and Raymond Marble (Mink Stole and David Lochary) announce their plans to take the title away from her, Babs is not about to stand idly by. Shot on a budget of only 12,000 dollars, the film has grossed close to ten million dollars around the world, and its success launched John Waters into a career as

America’s leading authority on poor taste.” (Rated NC-17 | 1 hour, 33 minutes)

Book of the Month

What does it mean for someone to be an asshole? That is what is pondered and discussed at length by Aaron James in his new book, Assholes: A Theory. And in this day in age, this book is more timely and helpful than ever expected. Assholes are all around us or so we think and say, but are they the real problem or are we. After reading this book, I found myself soul searching and discovering that in more than a few ways, I have tendencies to be an asshole. In fact we all do, and the person who says they do not, should read the book, Deluding Myself: The Truth – just kidding that one is not a book.

So what does it truly mean to be an asshole? The answer is not obvious, despite the fact that we are often personally stuck dealing with people for whom there is no better name. Try as we might to avoid them, assholes are found everywhere and in multiple iterations: smug assholes, royal assholes, the presidential asshole, corporate assholes, reckless assholes. There are chapters illuminating all of these kinds of behaviors.

Asshole management begins with asshole understanding. Now this is where the book waffles between comedy and tragedy. The comedy is how the people act, the tragedy is that they really believe they are doing nothing wrong. In an age of raging narcissism and unbridled capitalism, many of what James’ says rings so close to home. These concepts he describes are practical, as understanding the asshole we are stuck with helps us think constructively about how to handle problems he (and they are mostly all men, women are considered bitches and there is a chapter devoted to them) presents. We get a better sense of when the asshole is best resisted, and when he is best ignored—a sort of pick your battles mentality. So if you want a self-help book that is more about how to deal with the crazy around you, then this is the perfect read for you.

Party Down

Pride in New Orleans was a fantastic time as it grows bigger and stronger each year. The two weeks leading up to the Pride weekend was filled with all kinds of excitement, from cocktail parties, parades, Abba and even Kelly Ripa. So let the fun commence.

On Wednesday, I started my week by attending Countess C Alice’s birthday party at one of the fine restaurants in Kenner, The Golden Corral. I have to admit, it was my first time in the establishment. It may not look that way, but I tend to shy away from buffets. But I

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