PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, is medicine for people who do not have HIV but are at very high risk for getting it from sex or injection drug use.

When taken every day, PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by more than 90%.

Among people who inject drugs, PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV by more than 70% when taken every day.

PrEP is much less effective if it is not taken every day as directed.

PrEP can be even more effective if it is combined with other ways to prevent new HIV infections like condom use and drug abuse treatment.

The bottom line is that the benefits of PrEP are potentially very great for preventing new HIV infections in people who know that they are at high risk of infection.

Be sure to get answers to any questions you have about HIV/AIDS. Your public health department, health care provider, and public library can help.