

Citizens for a Responsible Curriculum

www.mcpscurriculum.com

FACT SHEET ON “PROTECT YOURSELF” VIDEO

“Protect Yourself” was produced by Montgomery County Public Schools Instructional TV in 2003. According to MCPS it “**reinforces abstinence** and demonstrates condom use as a response to calls by public health officials to stem the rise in STIs” (emphasis ours).

The video was field tested in 2004. It will be shown to all 10th grade students next fall. The young woman demonstrating condom use is a MCPS teacher.

Parents can choose not to have their child view the video if they obtain and correctly fill out an opt out form. However, the opt out form does not clearly spell out the problems with the video, including the promotion of oral and anal sex.

Running time: approximately 7 minutes. “Abstinence” is mentioned about 7 times, “condom/condoms,” about 44 times.

Quotes (emphasis ours)

“**Today we’re going to talk about latex condoms**, but we all know what the best way to protect ourselves is [abstinence].”

“The best way to protect yourself from getting an STI or having an unplanned pregnancy is by not having sex at all. Abstinence is 100% effective and no other method works as well. **But why does everyone always talk about condoms?** A condom works as a barrier during sex and is the only method that protects you from both STI’s and unplanned pregnancy. The pill and the patch cannot help you when it comes to STI’s and HIV. So, **if you’re sexually active now or will be in the future**, it’s important to always use latex condoms. So, just how effective are condoms? When used correctly and consistently, condoms can be about 98% effective.”

“And, **buying condoms isn’t as scary as you might think**. Sometimes it is hard to choose though and it can be a little overwhelming at first. Here’s some tips to help you choose the right condom.”

“Putting one on seems pretty straight forward, too. But this is the part where everyone makes mistakes. Here’s the part where it really counts. So listen up. Remember to always get consent before becoming sexually active in any way. This

means getting a verbal 'yes' to any kind of sexual activity from your partner before anything happens. **Oh, and if you think it's too embarrassing to talk about, maybe you shouldn't be doing it.**"

"Remember to use a condom for oral, anal, and vaginal sex."

"If you are concerned about the risk or reliability of condoms, just remember **the best way to protect yourself is abstinence. However**, if you are sexually active in any way, latex condoms, when used correctly, are your best protection from STI's including HIV and help to prevent unplanned pregnancy."