

# HAVE A CONDOM? JUMP THE QUEUE

City clubs to encourage safe sex

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Health Reporter

LIVERPOOL nightspots are promoting safe sex by letting clubbers jump the queue if they hold up a packet of condoms.

The Garlands and Studio nightclubs have joined forces with Fusion condoms to promote responsible behaviour among partygoers over Christmas.

More than 3,000 revellers are



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expected to enter the two clubs during this week's queue-jumping nights.

They will be asked to show their support for safe sex to help curb the growing tide of sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies on Merseyside.

The Terrence Higgins Trust

recently found chlamydia and herpes have risen by 40% since 2002, and syphilis by 74%.

**Another survey earlier this year revealed more than half of under-25s do not use condoms with new partners.**

Club promotion company Taking Liberties will run the

queue-jumping nights and distribute free condoms throughout the city centre.

They will also receive a flyer promoting the scheme, at Garlands tomorrow, and Studio on Saturday.

Pharmacy owner Shandip Shah launched Fusion condoms to give a more affordable choice to the huge numbers of teenage girls entering his pharmacy daily for morning-after pills.

He said: "We need to speak directly to a younger audience at places which may lead to a sexual encounter.

"We have to be much more open in highlighting the importance of carrying a condom. The stakes are too high for there to be any kind of taboo left in the subject.

"I am delighted nightclubs in Liverpool are reaching out to do something about the region's high rate of STDs and teenage pregnancies.

"Everyone must now play their part to promote safe sex."

**Only about one-quarter of people are estimated to routinely carry a condom on a night out.**

Will Holland, operations manager of Taking Liberties, added: "We attract thousands of student clubbers to our events weekly.

"Distributing condoms right into the hands of young people in nightclubs over the festive period is part of our responsible trading policy."

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