

## Sexually Transmitted Infections

Infection	How Spread	Symptoms Appear	Common Symptoms	Test	Treatment	Treatment of Partner	Possible Complications
<b>Chlamydia</b> (bacteria)	Sexual contact	7-21 days	Often no symptoms, occasionally vaginal discharge and pain in lower abdomen. Burning, discomfort and penile discharge and burning during urination. Bleeding between periods and/or with intercourse.	2 options. -culture during pelvic exam -urine sample	Antibiotics	Essential	PID (Pelvic Inflammatory Disease), inflammation of tubes in women. May infect baby at birth causing eye infection and pneumonia. Inflammation of epididymis, testicles, & prostate in men. Sterility. Also the leading cause of preventable infertility and ectopic pregnancy.
<b>Gonorrhea</b> (bacteria)	Sexual contact	2-30 days	Often no symptoms, especially in women. May have genital and/or anal discharge (pus) with pain and burning urination. Females may experience abnormal vaginal discharge or abnormal menses. Males may experience increased frequency in urination; ¼ of males are asymptomatic. Oral gonorrhea: may have sore throat, most do not.	2 options. -culture during pelvic exam -urine sample	Antibiotics	Essential	Sterility, scarring. PID (see above) May infect baby at birth, causing blindness.
<b>Syphilis</b> (bacteria)	Sexual contact. May infect baby before birth.	10-90 days	Primary: Chancre (painless sore) on or around penis, vagina, mouth, or anus. Secondary: non-itchy rash, flu-like symptoms, swollen glands.	Blood test.	Antibiotics	Essential	If untreated, in later years, brain damage, paralysis, heart disease. Can cause stillbirth and birth defects.
<b>Trichomoniasis</b> (protozoa)	Vaginal Sex	3-28 days (varies with cause)	Frothy, often unpleasant-smelling, discharge. Blood spotting in the discharge. Itching in and around the vagina, swelling in the groin, urinating more often than usual — often with pain and burning. Often no symptoms.	Vaginal smear inspected under microscope.	Prescribed medication	Essential	Skin irritations, secondary infections.

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<b>Hepatitis B</b> (virus)	Sexual contact, sharing needles	6 weeks-6 months	<u>Often symptoms may be too mild to notice.</u> Weakness, lack of energy, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, fever, headaches, jaundice, muscle pain, dark urine, light colored stool, and "flu-like" symptoms.	Blood test.	Medical follow-up, rest, and diet. There is also a vaccine for Hepatitis B.	Essential, have the Hepatitis B Vaccine administered	Some infected people become chronic carriers; can lead to chronic liver problems, or liver cancer.
<b>HIV/AIDS</b> (virus)	Sexual contact, sharing needles or other injection tools, infected blood exposures	HIV: Will test positive 3-6 weeks after exposure AIDS: May take up to 10 years or more to develop.	Often no symptoms for years. Early symptoms: weight loss, sores in mouth, sore throat, swollen glands, night sweats.	2 options.  -Blood test  -Rapid HIV test can provide results in 10 minutes.	No cure. Preventative and treatment of other infections.	Essential to notify partner whenever possible.	Pneumonia and other opportunistic infections. Kaposi's sarcoma-red/purple skin lesions.
<b>Scabies and Crabs</b> (Parasites)	Sexual contact, other intimate contact, bedding, clothing, and towels	2-4 weeks	Intense itching on genitals. Crabs and eggs (small nits) attach to pubic hair. Mites/scabies burrow under skin, redness where the mites have burrowed.	Visual exam.	Medicated shampoo or lotion and careful washing of clothes, towels & sheets	Essential	Secondary skin infections from scratching.
<b>Genital Warts</b> <b>HPV</b> <b>Condyloma</b> (virus)	Sexual contact	3 weeks to 8 months	Warts with cauliflower-like top growth appearing on genitals. Flat red warts appearing in moist areas. May itch and cause irritation. Some warts only visible by internal examination. Often no symptoms.	Genital Warts Or Condyloma: Visual exam  HPV: evaluated from pap smears	No cure, but vaccine for 70% of cervical cancers and 90% of strains causing genital warts. Wart removal by chemical application, freezing or surgical removal by practitioner.	Genital warts: Treatment only if symptomatic Screening is essential. Vaccine recommended for all girls ages 10-26. Available at PPLM.	Genital warts: Can block vaginal, penile, and rectal openings. May infect baby at birth, blocking throat.  HPV Strains 16 & 18: Linked to 70% of cervical cancers, as well as cancers of the penis, anus and vulva.
<b>Genital Herpes</b> (virus)	Sexual contact: with blisters present and w/o blisters	Usually 3 days to 3 weeks (symptoms recur often)	Cluster of ulcerated painful blisters in genital area, painful urination and intercourse, discharge, headache, vomiting, fever, body aches and swollen lymph nodes.	-Visual exam -Culture -Blood test(only for specific reasons, not routine screen)	No cure. Treatments to decrease severity of symptoms only.	Only if symptomatic	May infect baby at birth or during pregnancy causing health problems. Outbreak may cause miscarriage or stillbirth. Remain infected so symptoms can recur.