

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Fact Sheet

Infection	Symptoms	Incubation	Transmission	Testing Method	Treatment	Complications
Chlamydia – Most common bacterial STI particularly for women under age 25	Abnormal vaginal discharge; burning sensation with urination. Burning pain and swelling in one or both testicles. Only 10% have symptoms. Rectal infection includes rectal pain, discharge and bleeding	7 to 21 days	Vaginal and rectal intercourse. Oral sex – infrequently.	Urine or cervical swab vaginal swab, penile swab, rectal swab	Antibiotics; must abstain from sex for 7 days from 1 st day of treatment. There is a high re-infection rate so a 3-month re-test is encouraged.	<i>Untreated</i> in women can cause PID (pelvic inflammatory disease) which can cause scarring and lead to chronic pelvic pain, infertility and ectopic pregnancy
Gonorrhea Bacterial STI which causes infections in the genitals, rectum and throat	Painful/burning with urination, increased vaginal discharge and vaginal bleeding between periods; discharge from penis, less common-painful or swollen testicles, and rarely, arthritis. Rectal symptoms: discharge, anal itching, soreness	2 to 7 days	Vaginal and rectal intercourse, oral sex	Urine, cervical or vaginal swab, penile swab, rectal swab, throat swab	2 antibiotic-an injection plus pills; Some strains of gonorrhea are drug-resistant so 3 week re-check advised.If symptoms still present after a few days, return to health provider to be rechecked. Refrain from sexual activity until treatment is done.	<i>Untreated</i> in female-bodied persons can cause PID which can cause scarring and lead to chronic pelvic pain, infertility and ectopic pregnancy. Untreated in male bodied persons: painful condition in the tubes attached to testicles-rarely, sterility and arthritis. Rarely, if untreated, infection can spread to your blood and joints which can be life-threatening
Syphilis bacterial STI which causes infections throughout the body	1 st stage- single, painless sore, crater-like with smooth, rounded edges 2 nd stage-non-itchy body rash on back, stomach, hands, feet; some have no symptoms.3 rd stage Severe damage to tissue, brain, nervous system	10 to 90 days; average 20-25 days	Direct contact with a syphilis sore during oral, anal or oral sex	Blood test	Penicillin injection	Serious for those 30% who advance to stage 3-degeneration of major body systems, death
HIV/AIDS Human Immunodeficiency virus which affects specific cells of the immune system, called CD4 cells (T cells)	Within 2-4 weeks after infection many experience flu-like symptoms which can last a few days to several weeks. Latent stage which may have no symptoms. Untreated, this stage can last an average of 10 years before developing into AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Disease) s rapid weight loss, recurring fever and night sweats, extreme fatigue, swollen glands, persistent diarrhea, sores of the mouth, anus or genitals, pneumonia, red, brown, pink or purplish blotches on or under skin or inside moth nose or eyelids, memory loss, depression, or other neurological disorders	2 weeks to 3 months	Blood, semen (including pre-cum), rectal fluid, vaginal fluid, & breast milk. HIV can only get passed when one of these fluids from a person with HIV gets into the bloodstream of another person	Oral swab or blood test Testing can reliably be done as early as 4 to 6 weeks from exposure, results are available in 20 minutes	No known cure. Antiviral medication taken daily keep HIV from growing and multiplying in the body. With the advancement in HIV medications, HIV positive individuals can live long, healthy lives.	Over time, HIV can destroy so many T cells that the body cannot fight off infections and disease; death

