

CHLAMYDIA FACT SHEET

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What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted disease (STD) that can cause infection in the genitals, rectum, and/or throat.

How does it spread?

You can get chlamydia by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has chlamydia regardless of whether or not an individual ejaculates. Additionally, a pregnant person with untreated chlamydia can transfer the infection to their baby during childbirth.

Signs and Symptoms

Chlamydia is one of the STD/STIs that can often show no symptoms – even so, it can cause serious and long term effects without present symptoms. If symptoms occur, there is a chance that they may not appear until several weeks after having sex with an individual who has chlamydia.

- Present symptoms for those with a vagina can include:
 - Painful/burning sensation when peeing; and
 - Abnormal vagina discharge
- Individuals with penis' who have present symptoms can include:
 - Painful/burning sensation when peeing;
 - Discharge from the penis; and
 - Swollen or painful testicles (less common)
- Rectal infections may cause symptoms regardless of sex/gender and can include:
 - Bleeding;
 - Discharge; and
 - Bleeding
- Additional symptoms can include:
 - A new, unusual sore;
 - Discharge with odor;
 - Vaginal bleeding between menstruation cycles; and
 - Burning with urination

You should see a healthcare professional if you or your partner(s) notice any of these symptoms or if you/your partner have a known STD.

Test Options

Often, testing will be collected from a urine sample – if you have also had oral and/or anal sex, your health practitioner might also utilize swabs to collect a sample from your throat and/or rectum. Certain cases might warrant a swab collected from the urethra in the penis or the cervix.

Treatment Options

The right treatment can cure chlamydia – it is important to complete the treatment plan your health practitioner provides entirely i.e. do not share your medication or take only a portion of the medication provided. Medication will stop the infection, however, it will not undo any permanent damage caused by the disease.