

Sexual Health

Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing



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There are many kinds of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). STIs can be bacterial, viral, parasitic and yeast infections. Some can be cured with medication (bacterial) and some have no cure but can be treated (viral).

What is it?

Some common STIs are:

- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhoea
- Genital Warts (Human Papilloma Virus)
- Herpes
- Hepatitis
- Syphilis

Many people have no symptoms. For others symptoms can appear within days.

How do I get a sexually transmitted infection?

Many STIs are passed along through body fluids such as pre-cum, semen, vaginal fluids, breast milk and blood. Some STIs are found on the skin and surfaces of the vagina, penis, rectum and mouth. Direct contact with these surfaces may spread the infection.

Any activity which can cause someone else's body fluids to get into your body may put you at risk for getting a STI.

Your risk of getting an STI will be higher if you or your partner have...

- had unprotected oral, vaginal or anal sex
- had skin to skin genital contact
- sex under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- shared toothbrushes or razors
- shared equipment for snorting drugs
- shared needles or equipment for drugs, steroids, body piercing or tattooing
- shared sex toys

Should I be tested for sexually transmitted infections?

Anyone who is involved in any sexual activity should be tested for STIs.

- Most STIs have no visible symptoms and people may not know that they are infected.
- If STIs are left untreated they may affect your health and your ability to have children in the future.
- Chlamydia is a bacterial STI that most often has no symptoms.

How often should I be tested?

- Get tested with each new partner and after ex-partners.
- Some people get tested every three to six months for peace of mind.
- If you have concerns, get tested.
- If you have symptoms of an STI you should be tested as soon as possible.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms in Women	Symptoms in Men
Change in vaginal discharge	Discharge from the penis
Vaginal odour	Burning or itching around the tip of the penis
Burning or pain when passing urine	Urinating (peeing) more than usual
Pain during sexual intercourse	Testicular pain
Vaginal bleeding after intercourse or between menstrual periods	Sores, lumps or bumps in the genital area
Pain in lower abdomen	Sore throat
Sores, lumps or bumps in the genital area	Discharge from the anus
Discharge from the anus	
Sore throat	

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Where can I get tested?

Family doctors, walk-in clinics or other healthcare providers will test for STIs. The Huron County Health Unit has FREE STI testing and treatment. You can be tested Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 12:00-4:00.

You can book an appointment at our Sexual Health Clinic by calling the Health Unit. If you are a student talk to your school nurse.

What STIs can I be examined and tested for?

You can be tested for chlamydia, gonorrhea, trichomonas, hepatitis, syphilis and HIV. Some STIs are tested by a urine test or swab, others are tested by taking blood.

If you have a sore or bump on or near your genitals see your health care provider or our sexual health clinic physician for diagnosis and treatment.

How long does it take to get my STI test results?

At the Huron County Health Unit most STI test results take approximately one week to come back. We ask that clients return to the clinic to get their results.

What happens after I'm tested?

Your doctor or health care provider will discuss your diagnosis and treatment options.

STIs such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, hepatitis and HIV are reported by the health care provider to the health unit to ensure follow up. The health unit can help you notify your partners so that they can be tested and treated to prevent any further spread of infection. This will be done in a discreet manner.