

Chlamydia *Fact Sheet*



What is chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) that can infect both men and women.

Symptoms

Most people who have chlamydia never notice symptoms. When symptoms are noticed, they are likely to occur 1 to 3 weeks after exposure:

- Painful urination or increased need to pee
- Dull pain in lower abdomen
- Vaginal or penile discharge
- Painful intercourse
- Bleeding between periods and after sex
- Testicular pain and swelling
- Rectal pain, discharge, or bleeding

Testing is completed by urine test, vaginal swab, throat swab, or rectal swab.

Prevention

STIs can affect people of any age. **Lower your risk by using barriers every time you have sex** -such as condoms and dental dams. **Know the status of your partner prior to sex.** Having multiple sex partners increases risk. **Pregnant women should receive regular prenatal care including STI testing.** Reinfection is possible even with previous chlamydia treatment.

How is it spread?

Chlamydia is transmitted through vaginal, anal, or oral sex with an infected partner. Chlamydia can also be passed from a mom to baby during delivery.

Treatment

Chlamydia infections are treatable and curable. With antibiotics, most infections resolve within 1-2 weeks. Left untreated, permanent damage to reproductive organs can occur. Abstain from sexual activity for seven days after single dose antibiotics OR until completion of 7-day course antibiotics. **Inform all sex partners within 60 days prior to onset of symptoms or diagnosis** so they can see a provider for treatment.

