

Sexually Transmitted Infections Chart

Infection	Transmission*	Symptoms May Appear	Common Symptoms	How to Test	Treatment	Treatment of Partner	Possible Complications
Chlamydia (bacteria)	Spread through the exchange of infected pre-ejaculate, ejaculate (semen), and vaginal fluid.	1-2 weeks	<p><u>Often no symptoms.</u></p> <p>May experience abnormal vaginal discharge and pain in lower abdomen; bleeding between periods and/or with intercourse; burning or pain with urination.</p> <p>Penile discomfort, penile discharge and burning during urination; pain or tenderness of the testicles; swelling in the scrotum.</p>	Internal swab (vaginal, urethral or rectal) or urine sample	Antibiotics	Essential Partners may also be treated without exam or testing.	<p>PID (Pelvic Inflammatory Disease), which can cause permanent damage to the reproductive system and lead to long-term pelvic pain, infertility and ectopic pregnancy. May infect baby at birth causing eye infection and pneumonia.</p> <p>Infection can spread to the tube that carries sperm from the testicles, and can lead to pain, fever and infertility.</p>
Gonorrhea (bacteria)	Spread through the exchange of infected pre-ejaculate, ejaculate (semen), and vaginal fluid.	2-7 days	<p><u>Often no symptoms.</u></p> <p>May experience pain and burning with urination; increased frequency in urination; abnormal vaginal discharge or abnormal periods; milky penile discharge; abnormal anal discharge.</p>	Internal swab (vaginal, urethral or rectal) throat swab, or urine sample	Antibiotics	Essential	<p>PID (Pelvic Inflammatory Disease), which can cause permanent damage to the reproductive system and lead to long-term pelvic pain, infertility and ectopic pregnancy.</p> <p>Infection can spread to the tube that carries sperm from the testicles, and can lead to pain, fever and infertility.</p>
Syphilis (bacteria)	Spread through skin-to-skin contact during vaginal, anal, or oral sex.	10-90 days	<p>Primary: Chancre (painless sore) on or around penis, vagina, mouth, or anus.</p> <p>Secondary: Non-itchy rash, “flu-like” symptoms, swollen glands.</p>	Blood test	Antibiotics	Essential	<p>If untreated, in later years, brain damage, paralysis, heart disease. Can cause stillbirth and birth defects.</p>
Trichomoniasis (protozoa)	Most often spread through the exchange of infected pre-ejaculate, ejaculate (semen), and vaginal fluid.	5-28 days, can be much longer	<p><u>Often no symptoms.</u></p> <p>Frothy, often unpleasant-smelling discharge. Blood spotting in the discharge. Itching in and around the vagina, swelling in the groin. Frequent urination, often with pain and burning.</p>	Vaginal smear inspected under microscope Penile/urethral culture	Antibiotics	Essential	<p>Skin irritations, secondary infections.</p>
Scabies and Crabs (parasites)	Sexual contact, other intimate contact. Can be spread from bedding, clothing, or towels.	4-6 weeks, sooner if a person has been infected before	<p>Intense itching on genitals. Crabs and eggs (small nits) attach to pubic hair. Mites/scabies burrow under skin, and redness occurs where the mites have burrowed.</p>	Visual exam	Prescribed medication and careful washing of clothes, towels and sheets.	Essential	<p>Secondary skin infections from scratching.</p>

*Use of condoms or dental dams during sexual activity can reduce the risk of transmission. Animal skin condoms are not effective in preventing transmission of HIV and some other STIs. Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts Education & Training at www.pplm.org/training

Sexually Transmitted Infections Chart Continued

Infection	Transmission*	Symptoms May Appear	Common Symptoms	How to Test	Treatment	Treatment of Partner	Possible Complications
Human Papilloma Virus – HPV (virus) Genital Warts	Spread through skin-to-skin contact during vaginal, anal, or oral sex.	Warts may appear 3 weeks to 8 months after exposure	<p><u>Often no symptoms.</u></p> <p>High-risk HPV infections are typically asymptomatic but can cause changes to cells that can be precancerous, and eventually lead to cancer if left untreated.</p> <p>Warts may be small or large, raised or flat, or shaped like a cauliflower. May itch and cause irritation. Some warts only visible by internal examination.</p>	<p>HPV: Pap smears and visual exam</p> <p>Genital warts: Visual exam</p>	<p><u>No cure.</u> Vaccines available to reduce risk of cervical cancer and genital warts.</p> <p>Wart removal by chemical application, freezing or surgical removal by practitioner.</p>	<p>Genital warts: Treatment only if warts are present.</p> <p>Screening is essential. Vaccine available.</p>	<p>HPV: Linked to cancers of the cervix, penis, anus, vulva, mouth and throat, head and neck.</p> <p>Genital warts: Can block vaginal, penile, and rectal openings. May infect baby at birth.</p>
Genital Herpes (virus)	Spread through skin-to-skin contact during vaginal, anal, or oral sex, with or without blisters present.	Typically 2–12 days after infection Symptoms may recur often.	<p>Itching or tingling around genitals or anus before blisters appear. Small fluid-filled blisters that break open and cause painful sores, which then crust over as they heal. Some people with herpes have no symptoms.</p>	<p>Visual exam; culture of blister/lesion</p>	<p><u>No cure.</u> Treatments to decrease severity of symptoms.</p>	<p>Only if symptomatic</p>	<p>May infect baby at birth or cause problems during pregnancy.</p>
Human Immunodeficiency Virus – HIV (virus)	Spread through the exchange of infected pre-ejaculate, ejaculate (semen), vaginal fluid, rectal fluid, blood, and breast milk.	<p>HIV: Usually test positive 6-8 weeks after exposure or up to 3-6 months</p> <p>AIDS: May result from HIV; may take up to 10 years or more to develop</p>	<p>Many people who are infected with HIV do not have symptoms for 10 years or more. The only way to know if someone is infected is to be tested for HIV infection.</p> <p>Symptoms can include: fever, fatigue, and often, rash, headaches, swollen lymph nodes, and sore throat.</p>	<p>Blood test or oral swab.</p> <p>Rapid HIV test can provide results in 10 minutes.</p>	<p><u>No cure.</u> Prescribed medications. Prevention and treatment of other infections.</p>	<p>Recommended to notify partner whenever possible for medical follow-up. Partners should be seen by a provider for HIV testing.</p>	<p>Compromised immune system and opportunistic infections.</p>
Hepatitis B (virus)	Spread through the exchange of infected pre-ejaculate, ejaculate (semen), vaginal fluid, and blood.	6 weeks-6 months	<p><u>Often symptoms may be too mild to notice.</u></p> <p>Weakness, lack of energy, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, fever, headaches, jaundice, muscle pain, dark urine, light colored stool, and “flu-like” symptoms.</p>	<p>Blood test</p>	<p>Medical follow-up and prescribed medication.</p>	<p>Essential Hepatitis B can be prevented with vaccination.</p>	<p>Some infected people become chronic carriers; can lead to chronic liver problems, or liver cancer. A pregnant person with Hepatitis B may infect baby at birth or during pregnancy.</p>

*Use of condoms or dental dams during sexual activity can reduce the risk of transmission. Animal skin condoms are not effective in preventing transmission of HIV and some other STIs.