

STIs AT A GLANCE

STI	Organism	How it's passed	Common symptoms	When symptoms show up	When to test	Tests	Treatment
Bacterial Vaginosis (BV)	Bacteria	Imbalance of normal bacteria (not an STI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong vaginal odour • More vaginal discharge • Vaginal irritation 	Not applicable	Varies	Swab	Cured with antibiotics
Chlamydia (CT)	Bacteria	Semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discharge from the vagina, penis or anus • Burning when urinating • Often there are no symptoms 	2- 3 weeks up to 6 weeks (but often no symptoms)	Most results accurate after 2 weeks	Urine or swab	Cured with antibiotics
Genital Warts/Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	Virus	Skin-to-skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painless bumps around genitals or buttocks • Often there are no symptoms 	1 - 8 months	HPV testing is not available in BC Pap tests find cell changes caused by some types of HPV	Visual exam	Visible warts may be treated More than 80% of HPV infections will clear on their own in 24 months Immunization with HPV vaccine prevents some strains of HPV
Gonorrhea (GC)	Bacteria	Semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discharge from the vagina, penis or anus • Burning when urinating • Women often do not notice symptoms • Men may notice symptoms when gonorrhea is in the penis, but not when it is in the throat or rectum 	2 - 7 days (but often no symptoms)	Most results accurate after 7 days	Urine or swab	Cured with antibiotics
Hepatitis A (HAV)	Virus	Fecal-oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, jaundice, fatigue, dark urine, clay-coloured stool • 70% of adults have symptoms 	15 - 50 days (average 4 weeks)	4 weeks	Blood	No treatment - virus clears from the body Immunization with Hepatitis A vaccine prevents infection.
Hepatitis B (HBV)	Virus	Blood, semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, jaundice, dark urine, clay-coloured stool • 30- 50% of adults have symptoms 	45 - 160 days (average 90 days)	30 - 60 days after infection Most results accurate after 4 weeks	Blood	Virus may stay in the body or clear on its own Immunization with Hepatitis B vaccine prevents infection.
Hepatitis C (HCV)	Virus	Blood, body fluids containing blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, jaundice, abdominal pain, dark urine, clay-coloured stool • 20 -30% of adults have symptoms 	2 - 26 weeks (average 6 - 7 weeks)	6 - 10 weeks Most acute HCV infections will be detectable within 2 weeks	Blood	Virus may stay in the body or clear on its own Treatment can cure about 70% of those treated
Herpes simplex virus (HSV)	Virus	Skin-to-skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painful blisters on genitals, mouth and face • 60% of people do not notice symptoms 	2 - 21 days (average 6 days)	Swab from lesion: 2 - 12 days (average 6 days) Blood test: 70% of results accurate after 3 months	Swab, blood	Virus stays in the body Managed with anti-viral medication if needed
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	Virus	Blood, semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids, breast milk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flu-like illness, swollen lymph nodes, skin rash • Many people do not notice symptoms 	2 - 4 weeks if seroconverting	95% of tests are accurate after 6 weeks but it can take up to 3 months for final result	Blood	Virus stays in the body, but can be managed with medication
Molluscum Contagiosum	Virus	Skin-to-skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small, firm, painless pink or white bumps on the skin 	1 weeks - 6 months	Not applicable	Visual exam	Sometimes treated with topical medication Clears from the body with time
Pubic lice	Parasite	Close contact, sharing clothes, bedding, towels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genital itching • Visible lice in and around pubic hair 	2 days - 3 weeks	Not applicable	Visual exam	Cured with lotion or cream rinse applied to the skin Wash all clothes and bedding in hot water or dry clean; vacuum mattresses
Scabies	Parasite	Skin-to-skin contact, sharing clothes, bedding or towels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Itchiness (especially at night) • Rash between fingers, on wrists, armpits, genitals, thighs 	3 weeks, though symptoms may begin as soon as 1 - 3 days	Not applicable	Visual exam	Cured with lotion or cream applied to the body below the neck Wash all clothes and bedding in hot water or dry clean; vacuum mattresses
Syphilis	Bacteria	Skin-to-skin contact, fluids from a syphilis lesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many people do not notice symptoms 	3 days - 3 months	3 - 4 weeks	Blood	Cured with antibiotics
Trichomoniasis	Parasite	Semen, vaginal fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaginal discharge • Painful or burning urination • Painful sex 	4 - 28 days	4 - 28 days	Swab	Cured with antibiotics
Yeast	Fungus	Imbalance of normal bacteria (not an STI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genital area is itchy, red, sore and dry • Painful sex • Whitish, thick vaginal discharge 	Not applicable	Not applicable	Swab	Treated with creams or oral medication