

STIs (and more) at a Glance

Infection	Organism	Where on your body	How it's passed	Common symptoms	When symptoms show up	Tests	When test results are accurate	Treatment
Bacterial Vaginosis (BV)	Bacteria	Vagina	Not usually passed	Common to not notice symptoms • Increased vaginal discharge • Fish-like smell • Vaginal irritation	Not applicable	Swab	Immediately	• Antibiotics • Symptoms may go away without treatment
Chlamydia (CT)	Bacteria	Penis Vagina Anus Throat Eye (rare)	Semen Pre-ejaculate Vaginal fluids Anal fluids	Common to not notice symptoms • Abnormal discharge • Pain or trouble urinating	2 – 6 weeks	Urine and/or Swab	2 – 6 weeks	• Antibiotics
Genital Warts/ Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	Virus	Penis Vagina Anus Genital area Throat (rare) Mouth (rare)	Skin-to-skin contact	Common to not notice symptoms • Painless bumps on the skin	Weeks to years	Visual exam	Not applicable	• Topical medications and treatments • Symptoms may go away without treatment • Vaccines can prevent some strains of HPV
Gonorrhea (GC)	Bacteria	Penis Vagina Anus Throat Eye (rare)	Semen Pre-ejaculate Vaginal fluids Anal fluids	Common to not notice symptoms • Symptoms occur most often in the penis • Abnormal discharge • Pain or trouble urinating	2 – 7 days	Urine and/or Swab	7 days	• Antibiotics
Hepatitis A (HAV)	Virus	Stool	Fecal-oral contact	• Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, stomach pain, jaundice, dark urine, grey-coloured stool	2 – 7 weeks	Blood	4 weeks	• Symptoms usually go away on their own • Vaccines can prevent infection
Hepatitis B (HBV)	Virus	Blood	Blood Semen Pre-ejaculate Vaginal fluids	Common to not notice symptoms • Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, stomach pain, and jaundice	6 – 22 weeks	Blood	4 – 12 weeks	• Anti-viral medications • Symptoms may go away without treatment • Vaccines can prevent infection
Hepatitis C (HCV)	Virus	Blood	Blood	Common to not notice symptoms • Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, stomach pain, and jaundice	6 – 7 weeks	Blood	5 – 10 weeks	• Anti-viral medications • Symptoms may go away without treatment
Herpes simplex virus (HSV)	Virus	Penis Vagina Anus Genital area Mouth	Skin-to-skin contact	Common to not notice symptoms • Itching, burning, or tingling sensation • Painful sores or blisters	2 – 21 days	Swab or Blood	Blood test: 12 – 16 weeks	• Anti-viral medications • Symptoms may go away without treatment
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	Virus	Blood	Blood Semen Pre-ejaculate Vaginal fluids Anal fluids Breast milk	Common to not notice symptoms • Flu-like illness, headache, muscle aches and joint pain, swollen glands (seroconversion illness)	2 – 4 weeks	Blood	3 – 12 weeks	• Anti-viral medications
Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV)	Bacteria	Penis Vagina Anus Genital area Throat Lymph-nodes	Semen Pre-ejaculate Vaginal fluids Anal fluids	Common to not notice symptoms • Painless sores • Swollen lymph nodes • Abscesses	3 days – 6 weeks	Urine and/or Swab	2 – 6 weeks	• Antibiotics
Molluscum Contagiosum	Virus	Genital area Skin	Skin-to-skin contact	• Small, firm, painless pink or white bumps on the skin	1 week – 6 months	Visual exam	Not applicable	• Topical medications and treatments • Symptoms may go away without treatment
Pubic lice	Parasite	Genital and other body hair	Skin-to-skin contact Sharing clothes, bedding, towels	• Genital itching • Visible lice in and around pubic hair	2 – 21 days	Visual exam	Not applicable	• Topical medications
Scabies	Parasite	Skin	Skin-to-skin contact Sharing clothes, bedding, towels	• Itchiness (especially at night) • Rash between fingers, on wrists, armpits, genitals, thighs	1 – 21 days	Visual exam	Not applicable	• Topical medications
Syphilis	Bacteria	Penis Vagina Anus Genital area Throat Skin	Skin-to-skin contact	Common to not notice symptoms • A painless sore • A non-itchy rash	3 days – 3 months	Swab or Blood	Blood test: 3 months	• Antibiotics
Trichomoniasis	Parasite	Penis Vagina	Semen Pre-ejaculate Vaginal fluids	Common to not notice symptoms • Abnormal vaginal discharge • Pain or trouble when urinating	5 – 28 days	Urine and/or Swab	Unknown	• Antibiotics
Yeast	Fungus	Penis Vagina Anus Genital area	Not usually passed	• Abnormal whitish, thick discharge • Genital area is itchy, red, sore and dry • Painful sex	Not applicable	Swab	Immediately	• Anti-fungal medications • Symptoms may go away without treatment