



Chlamydia Fact Sheet

What is Chlamydia?

- Most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States; most infections among people ages 15 to 24
- Caused by bacteria called Chlamydia trachomatis

How is Chlamydia transmitted?

- Vaginal intercourse, anal sex, or oral sex with an infected person
- Contact with infected discharges from the penis, vagina, or anus
- From an infected mother to her baby during birth

What are symptoms of infection with Chlamydia?

- Often no symptoms; with new tests, more and more people identified, even without symptoms
- In women, discharge from vagina, bleeding between periods, pain in abdomen, or pain with urination
- In men, burning or pain with urination, watery drip from penis, or pain in testicles

What are other consequences of infection with Chlamydia?

- Because most people don't know they have chlamydia, the infection can spread and cause permanent and painful damage to the reproductive and urinary organs.
- Chlamydia is a leading cause of pelvic inflammatory infection (PID) in females. PID is a serious infection of the Fallopian tubes that may lead to infertility, or an inability to have children.
- Damage from chlamydia can leave males and females unable to produce children.
- A woman who is infected with chlamydia can pass it to her baby during birth. These babies may have eye problems, pneumonia, and could possibly die.
- Repeated re-infections from untreated partners can lead to serious consequences.

What is the treatment or cure for Chlamydia?

- Cured with proper treatment to kill the bacteria, but re-infection can occur
- Taking antibiotics as prescribed
- Treatment of both sexual partners

How can Chlamydia be avoided?

- Abstain from vaginal intercourse, oral sex, and anal sex.
- Have intimate sexual contact with only one person who is not infected and is also faithful to that relationship—for life.
- Reduce the risk of infection by using a latex or polyurethane condom correctly for all vaginal intercourse, oral sex, or anal sex.
- Treat both sex partners to avoid re-infection.

If you have questions about sexually transmitted infections, call, e-mail, or talk to...

- CDC INFO: 1-800-232-4636 (English and Spanish; available 24/7)
- Hearing impaired hotline: 1-888-232-6348
- CDC e-mail address: cdcinfo@cdc.gov
- Parent or other trusted adult
- Family physician
- Local public health department
- Local AIDS hotline

These websites will also provide accurate information:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/>
- American Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/hiv aids/>
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services: www.michigan.gov/mdhhs