

HIV/AIDS

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. If HIV is not treated, it can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

There is currently no effective cure. Once people get HIV, they have it for life.

But with proper medical care, HIV can be controlled. People with HIV who get effective HIV treatment can live long, healthy lives and protect their partners

Stage 1: Acute HIV Infection

People have a large amount of HIV in their blood and are very contagious.

Many people have flu-like symptoms.

If you have flu-like symptoms and think you may have been exposed to HIV, get tested.

Stage 2: Chronic Infection

This stage is also called asymptomatic HIV infection or clinical latency.

HIV is still active and continues to reproduce in the body.

People may not have any symptoms or get sick during this phase but can transmit HIV.

People who take HIV treatment as prescribed may never move into Stage 3 (AIDS).

Without HIV treatment, this stage may last a decade or longer, or may progress faster. At the end of this stage, the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load) goes up and the person may move into **Stage 3 (AIDS)**



Anonymously tell your partner they should get tested

CDC Online STI Fact Sheets



Nebraska AIDS Project

Sexually Transmitted Infections: Answers & Resources

A QUICK GUIDE
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Chlamydia

THE FACTS

- It is very common among teens and young adults.
- Young, sexually active females need testing every year.
- Most people who have chlamydia don't know it. Often the disease has no symptoms.
- You can pass chlamydia to others without knowing it.
- Chlamydia is easy to treat and cure with the use of antibiotics
- If you do not treat chlamydia, it can lead to serious health problems.

SYMPTOMS

Most of chlamydial infections do not cause any symptoms.

IF YOU ARE A WOMAN

You can get chlamydia in the cervix (opening to the womb), rectum, or throat. You may not notice any symptoms. But if you do have symptoms, you might notice:

- An unusual discharge from your vagina.
- Burning when you urinate.
- Discomfort or bleeding when you have sex.

If the infection spreads, you might get lower abdominal pain, pain during sex, nausea, or fever.

IF YOU ARE A MAN

You can get chlamydia in the urethra (inside the penis), rectum, or throat. You may not notice any symptoms. If you do have symptoms, you might notice:

- A discharge from your penis.
- Burning when you urinate.
- Burning or itching around the opening of your penis.

Syphilis

Syphilis is divided into four stages: Primary, Secondary, Latent, and Tertiary

PRIMARY STAGE SYMPTOMS

In the primary stage of syphilis you may notice one or more painless sores on the genitals or in the mouth, anus, or rectum. The name for this type of sore is a chancre (SHANK er).

The sore is likely to be wherever you had sex. If you had oral sex, it might be in your mouth or on your genitals. It does not hurt, so you might not even notice you have a sore unless you look for it. The sore lasts 3 to 6 weeks, and it heals on its own. If you don't get treatment, the disease will progress to the next stage.

SECONDARY STAGE SYMPTOMS

You might have a rash on your hands and feet or on other parts of your body. Syphilis rashes are often red or brown and usually don't itch. Other symptoms may include fever, sore throat, muscle aches, headaches, hair loss, and feeling tired.

LATENT STAGE SYMPTOMS

In the latent stage of the disease, you have no symptoms, but the disease can be detected by a blood test from your doctor. Syphilis can remain hidden for many years in the latent stage.

TERTIARY STAGE SYMPTOMS

Tertiary stage syphilis is very serious. It can begin after you've had untreated syphilis for a while, possibly many years—even if you never noticed symptoms. Symptoms of tertiary syphilis may include difficulty moving your arms and legs, paralysis, numbness, blindness, and heart disease.

Gonorrhea

THE FACTS

- It is more common among teens and young adults.
- Many people who have gonorrhea don't know it; especially in women.
- You can pass gonorrhea to others without knowing it.
- Gonorrhea can be cured with the right treatment.
- If you do not treat gonorrhea, it can lead to serious health problems.

SYMPTOMS

You may not notice any symptoms. If you do have symptoms, they will vary depending on what part of your body is infected.

IF YOU ARE A WOMAN

You can get gonorrhea in the anus, eyes, mouth, throat, urinary tract, or uterus. Symptoms that may occur are:

- Vaginal bleeding between your periods.
- Pain or burning when you pass urine.
- Increased vaginal discharge.
- Itching, soreness, bleeding,, a discharge from your rectum, or painful bowel movements.
- Sore throat if throat is effected.

IF YOU ARE A MAN

You can get gonorrhea in the anus, eyes, mouth, penis, or throat. Symptoms that may occur are:

- Pain or burning when you pass urine.
- A discharge from your penis.
- Painful or swollen testicles.
- Itching, soreness, bleeding, a discharge from your rectum, or painful bowel movements
- Sore throat if throat is effected.