

Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania

STI TESTING

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are spread through sex. After you are exposed to an infection, it can take days, weeks, or months for them to show up on a test. In very rare cases, test results will be wrong. No exam or test is 100 percent accurate all the time. This means there can be no guarantee that a diagnosis is always correct. There is no test or exam that screens for all STIs. Talk to your doctor or nurse about your risks for STIs. They will recommend testing based on your symptoms, health history and risk factors.

STI	ABOUT THE INFECTION	WHO SHOULD GET TESTED AND WHEN	HOW DO I GET TESTED?
CHLAMYDIA	 Caused by bacteria May have genital discharge, pain during urination, or pelvic or testicular pain Usually no symptoms Can be cured 	Routinely, at least every year in Women <25 years old Pregnancy Men who have sex with men HIV+ And testing based on risk.	Urine test or swab of the genital area sent to lab
GENITAL HERPES	 Caused by virus Can cause sores on the genitals or other areas of skin May not have symptoms Can be treated but not cured 	Anyone with symptoms should see a doctor or nurse.	Swab of sore sent to lab. Most accurate within 2 days of noticing symptoms.
GENITAL WARTS	 Caused by virus Painless, sometimes itchy, genital bumps Can be treated but usually goes away on its own 	Anyone with concerns should see a doctor or nurse.	By exam
GONORRHEA	 Caused by bacteria Symptoms same as Chlamydia Can be cured 	Routinely, at least every year in Women <25 years old Pregnancy Men who have sex with men HIV+ And testing based on risk.	Urine test or swab of genital area sent to lab
HEPATITIS B	 Caused by virus May have tiredness, abdominal pain, yellowing of eyes or skin May not have symptoms Can also get from contact with infected blood Vaccine for prevention Can be treated but not cured 	Testing based on risk.	Blood test sent to lab
HEPATITIS C	 Caused by virus Symptoms same as Hepatitis B May not have symptoms Usually get from contact with infected blood Can be treated but not cured 	Testing based on risk.	Blood test sent to lab

STI	ABOUT THE INFECTION	WHO SHOULD GET TESTED AND WHEN	HOW DO I GET TESTED?
HIV	A virus	At least once for anyone sexually active	Blood test or swab from inside of
	 Early symptoms may include flu-like illness, rash, joint pain 	between the ages of 13 and 65.	mouth. May be sent to lab.
	 May not have symptoms 	And testing based on risk.	
	 Can be treated but not cured 		
HUMAN	A virus	HPV testing is used for cervical cancer	
PAPILLOMA VIRUS	 Many kinds - some are associated with cancers of the cervix, 	screening and management only. HPV	
(HPV)	vagina, vulva, penis, anus, or mouth	testing is not recommended for any	
	 Usually no symptoms 	other reason.	
	 Vaccine for prevention 		
	Can be treated but not cured		
MOLLUSCUM	Caused by virus	Anyone with concerns should see a	By exam
CONTAGIOSUM	 May have painless bumps on lower belly, genital area or 	doctor or nurse.	
	thighs and can appear in other areas of the body		
	 Can be treated but usually goes away on its own 		
PUBIC LICE (CRABS)	 Caused by tiny parasites which attach to hair 	Anyone with symptoms should see a	By exam
	 Have itching, nits (eggs) can be seen on hair 	doctor or nurse.	
	Can be treated	No test available.	
SCABIES	 Caused by tiny parasites on the skin 	Anyone with symptoms should see a	By exam
	 May have itching (worse at night), skin rashes 	doctor or nurse.	
	Can be treated	No test available.	
SYPHILIS	Caused by bacteria	Anyone with symptoms should see a	Blood test or swab taken from a sore
	 May have a painless sore on genitals or mouth, rash on 	doctor or nurse.	sent to lab.
	hands or feet	Testing is recommended in	
	 May not have symptoms 	Pregnancy	
	Can be treated	 Men who have sex with men 	
		Others at risk	
TRICHOMONIASIS	 Caused by tiny parasites in the genitals 	Anyone with symptoms should see a	Swab of genital area, or checking a
(TRICH)	 May have genital discharge and itching, pain during 	doctor or nurse.	sample of discharge. May be sent to
	urination		lab.
	 May not have symptoms 	If no symptoms testing is not	
	Can be treated	recommended.	