

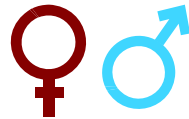


District Health Department #10  
Family Planning

# Chlamydia

## What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease (STD). It is caused by bacteria that can grow in both male and female reproductive organs. Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted bacterial infection in the United States.



## What are the symptoms of Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is called a “silent” disease because 75% of infected women and about 50% of infected men show no symptoms. If symptoms do appear, they usually begin within the first 3 weeks after exposure.

Symptoms experienced by women may include:

- Abdominal pain
- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- Cervical or rectal inflammation
- Bleeding between periods
- Painful intercourse
- Painful urination

Symptoms experienced by men may include:

- Pain or burning when urinating
- Pus or watery discharge from the penis
- Rectal inflammation
- Swollen or painful testicles



## Is Chlamydia treatable?

Yes. Chlamydia can be treated through the use of antibiotics. All sexual partners should be tested and treated as well.

## What if I don't get treated?

If left untreated Chlamydia can spread throughout the reproductive tissues and cause more serious complications such as Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID). PID can lead to severe, long term pelvic pain, damage to the fallopian tubes and in some cases infertility. 40% of women with untreated Chlamydia will develop PID. Untreated Chlamydia in men can cause them to be unable to have children if the infection spreads to the testicles.

## How can I prevent Chlamydia?

The only 100% sure way to prevent getting any STD, including Chlamydia, is to abstain from having sexual intercourse. Using condoms during sexual intercourse and having routine checkups are two additional ways to help prevent the spread of Chlamydia.



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For more information please visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website, <http://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/default.htm>