
STD

What You Need to Know



What is a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)?

A STD is a viral or bacterial infection that is passed from person to person through sexual contact. They cause uncomfortable symptoms and can result in permanent, and in some cases, fatal health problems. The most common STD's include gonorrhea, chlamydia, herpes, genital warts, syphilis and HIV/AIDS.

How can I get a STD?

You can get a STD by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone; sharing needles to inject drugs; or getting a body piercing or tattoo with tools that haven't been cleaned properly. Some STD's can be passed from mother to child during pregnancy and childbirth.

How can I tell if I have a STD?

Many times people don't have symptoms, especially women. Some signs are:

- Unusual discharge or blood from the vagina or penis
- Sores, bumps or blisters in or near the mouth, anus, vagina or penis
- Burning or pain when you urinate or have a bowel movement
- Urinating often
- Itching around the vagina or penis
- Flu like feelings-fever, chills and aches
- Pain in the pelvic area

If you have any symptoms, stop having sex. Go to a doctor or health clinic right away for testing and possible treatment.

What health problems can a STD cause?

STD's can cause future health problems including infertility, cervical and other cancers, miscarriage, infant death, and pregnancy problems. STD's also increase a person's risk of getting HIV/AIDS.

I didn't know I had a STD. Can I still give it to my partner?

Yes. Even if you have no symptoms, you could still give the disease to a partner.

Can STD be treated?

Yes. When diagnosed and treated early, many STD's can be cured.

How can I protect myself?

- The best way to prevent STD's is by not having sex.
- Know your partner's history of STD's and drug use before having sex.
- Use a new, latex condom with a water-based lubricant every time you have sex. Condoms don't offer 100% protection but they do offer the best protection we have.
- Both men and women should carry condoms.
- Have sex with only one partner who is having sex only with you. The more partners you have the greater the likelihood of getting a STD or HIV.
- Make sure your partner has been tested for STD's and is STD free.
- Never have sex with someone who uses needles to take drugs or who has sex for drugs and/or money.
- Have STD exams and HIV tests regularly. Consider being tested before having sex.

I have a STD, what should I do?

Get treated and tell your partner right away. Your partner must get tested and treated too. During treatment, wait to have sex until your health provider says you are no longer affected.

Oakland County Health Division offers testing, diagnosis and treatment for various STD's. Testing is available for HIV infections (AIDS) and referrals may be given for treatment.

Clinic Hours:

Monday: Noon - 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday – Friday: 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



NURSE ON CALL PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION HOTLINE
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