

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET



COUNTY MICHIGAN
HEALTH DIVISION

Department of Health & Human Services

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Chlamydia

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

How is Chlamydia spread?

- Chlamydia is spread during oral, anal or vaginal sex with someone who has untreated Chlamydia.
- Chlamydia can be passed from a pregnant woman to her newborn infant during birth.

What are the symptoms of Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is known as a “silent” disease because 75% of infected women and 50% of infected men have no symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they usually appear one to three weeks after exposure.

Women may experience:

- Abnormal discharge from the vagina
- Painful and/or frequent urination
- Abdominal pain and/or pain during sex
- Bleeding between periods

If left untreated, Chlamydia in women may cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), chronic abdominal pain, ectopic (tubal) pregnancy, sterility, miscarriage or premature birth.

Men may experience:

- Watery or milky discharge from the penis
- Painful, burning sensation when urinating
- Pain in testicles or abdomen

If left untreated, Chlamydia in men may cause inflammation of the urethra (urethritis), inflammation of the testicles (epididymitis) or sterility.

How is Chlamydia diagnosed?

There are laboratory tests to diagnose Chlamydia. Some can be performed on urine; other tests require that a specimen be collected from the infected site such as the penis or cervix.

How is Chlamydia treated?

Chlamydia is treated with antibiotics. It is very important that you:

- Take all medicine as prescribed, even if you start to feel better. Inform your health care provider before taking any medicine if you think you may be pregnant.
- Inform your sex partner(s) that you have Chlamydia and encourage them to be tested and treated.
- Stop all sexual activity until treatment is complete.

How can Chlamydia be prevented?

- Don't have sex. You cannot give or get an STD if there is no contact with the penis, vagina, mouth or anus of an infected person.
- If you choose to have sex, use a condom with a water-based lubricant. Use a new condom every time.
- Limit your number of sexual partners. The more people you have sex with, the greater the chance of getting Chlamydia or another STD.
- Have regular medical exams if you are sexually active. If you think you have a STD, get tested.
- Tell your partner if you are infected. Tell anyone you have had sex with that they need to be tested.

For more information on Chlamydia, call (248) 858-1406 or toll free 1 (800) 848-5533.

For additional copies, visit our website at www.oakgov.com/health.

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