

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET



COUNTY MICHIGAN
HEALTH DIVISION

Department of Health & Human Services

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Trichomoniasis

What is Trichomoniasis?

Trichomoniasis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the protozoa *Trichomonas vaginalis*.

How is Trichomoniasis spread?

- Trichomoniasis is spread during oral, anal or vaginal sex with someone who is infected.
- Pregnant women with trichomoniasis may have babies who are born early or with low birth weight.

What are the symptoms of Trichomoniasis?

Most men and many women infected with Trichomoniasis have no symptoms and unknowingly pass the infection to their sex partners. If symptoms do occur, they usually appear between 5 and 28 days after exposure.

Women may experience:

- Frothy, yellow-green vaginal discharge with a strong odor
- Discomfort during sex and urination
- Irritation and itching of the genital area
- In rare cases, lower abdominal pain

Men may experience:

- Irritation inside the penis
- Mild discharge
- Slight burning after urination or ejaculation

Symptoms may stop without treatment, however an infected man can continue to infect or re-infect his partner(s) until he has been treated.

How is Trichomoniasis diagnosed?

A physical examination and laboratory tests are needed to diagnose Trichomoniasis.

How is Trichomoniasis treated?

Trichomoniasis is treated with prescription medicine. 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 Trichomoniasis and encourage them to be tested and treated.
- Stop all sexual activity until treatment is complete.



Over

How can Trichomoniasis 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 Trichomoniasis 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 Trichomoniasis, call (248) 858-1406 or toll free 1 (800) 848-5533.

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