

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHLAMYDIA

Where can I learn more?

Go to knowmystatus.org
to learn more about chlamydia
testing and treatment.

Chlamydia information from DSHS:
dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/info/chlamydia

For STD testing locations
in Texas, call:
2-1-1



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

For HIV/STD questions, call
737-255-4300

or visit
dshs.texas.gov/hivstd

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WHAT IS CHLAMYDIA?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that affects millions of people every year. People get chlamydia by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has it.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE CHLAMYDIA?

Most people with chlamydia have no symptoms. When symptoms occur, they may not appear for three months or longer. Symptoms may include:

- Painful or frequent urination
- Discharge from the vagina or penis
- Anal discomfort
- Bleeding between periods
- Pain during sex (women)
- Stomach or abdominal pain (women)
- Pain or swelling in the testicles

SHOULD I GET TESTED FOR CHLAMYDIA?

The only way to know if you have chlamydia is to get tested. Your doctor may ask you to provide a urine sample or use a swab to get a sample of fluid from the cervix, penis, rectum, or throat. Early testing and treatment prevents major health problems.

YOU SHOULD GET TESTED FOR CHLAMYDIA IF:

- You or your partner(s) have symptoms of chlamydia
- You have had multiple sex partners
- You have another STD
- Your partner tells you they are being tested or treated for an STD

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DO NOT TREAT CHLAMYDIA?

IN WOMEN, IT CAN CAUSE:

- Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), a serious infection of the sex organs
- Ectopic pregnancy, a potentially deadly pregnancy outside the uterus
- Infertility (not being able to get pregnant)
- Chronic pelvic pain
- Babies born to mothers with chlamydia may have eye and lung problems

IN MEN, IT CAN CAUSE:

- Severe pain in the penis and testicles
- Sterility (not being able to father children)

CAN CHLAMYDIA BE CURED?

Taking medicine can cure most cases of chlamydia for a short time. Be sure your sex partner(s) also get treated, or you could get infected again.

IF YOU HAVE CHLAMYDIA OR ANY OTHER STD:

- Take all the medicine given to you
- Do not share your medicine

- Ask your sex partner(s) to get checked
- Do not have sex until a health care provider says you and your partner(s) are cured
- Do not try to treat yourself
- Get retested three months after treatment

YOU SHOULD GET TESTED FOR CHLAMYDIA ONCE A YEAR IF:

- You are a sexually active woman under age 25
- You are a woman age 25 or older with new or multiple sex partners
- You are a man who has sex with other men

WHAT ABOUT HIV AND CHLAMYDIA?

Chlamydia increases the chances that HIV can be transmitted. If you get tested for an STD, it is a good idea to get tested for HIV.

HOW CAN YOU STAY HEALTHY?

The only sure way to avoid chlamydia and other STDs is to not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex. If you have sex, use a latex condom the right way every time. Have sex with one partner who has sex only with you. Use condoms unless you are sure your partner does not have chlamydia or other STDs.