

What is an STI?

Infections transmitted through sexual activity are referred to as Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI). Some STI's infect sexual and reproductive organs, while others (HIV, Hepatitis B, Syphilis) cause general body infections. One may have an STI and have no signs or symptoms, or the symptoms may go away on their own. Even if there are no symptoms, you may still be infected. While some STI's can be cured, others remain treatable for symptoms but cannot be cured.

How is an STI Spread?

An STI is spread during close sexual practices (vaginal, anal, and oral sex). Some STI's are also spread by contact with infected blood.

What to Do

If you suspect you have contracted an STI, get tested. The STI WILL NOT disappear on it's own! County health departments have special STI clinics. Private doctors also treat STI's. Many STI's are treated using antibiotics. You should also inform your partner(s) of the STI that you have. If they aren't treated, they can spread the STI...they might even re-infect you! Come to the Link Center for information and referrals about STI's.

You Can Protect Yourself

- Talk to your partner about past sex partners and about needle drug use.
- Before you have sex, look closely at your partner for any signs of STI—a rash, a sore, redness or discharge. If you see anything you are worried about consider safer sex practices.
- Use a latex condom (rubber) for vaginal, anal and oral sex. Condoms will help protect you from STI's much of the time.
- Get checked for STI's every time you have a health exam. If you have more than one sex partner, get an STI check any time you think you might be at risk, even if you don't have symptoms.

- Know the signs and symptoms of STI's. If you notice a symptom that worries you, get tested!
- If you have an STI, your partner(s) should get treated when you do.
- If you have an STI, don't have sex until your treatment is complete.
- ABOVE ALL ELSE...Talk with your partner about sex.
 - * What you want
 - * What your boundaries are
 - * Your sexual histories

You will be surprised about how close you can feel when you take the time to communicate about all of this BEFORE you have sex.

For more information:

Project SAFE

Link Center MUB 301
Info, Referrals, Safer Sex supplies
415.452.5070
www.ccsf.edu/hiv

San Francisco Dept. of Health – HIV Prevention

www.sfhiv.org

San Francisco HIV Testing Sites

www.sfhiv.org
www.sfaf.org/client-services

San Francisco Syringe Exchange Sites

www.sfhiv.org
www.sfaf.org/client-services

San Francisco Sex Information

415.989.7374
www.sfsi.org



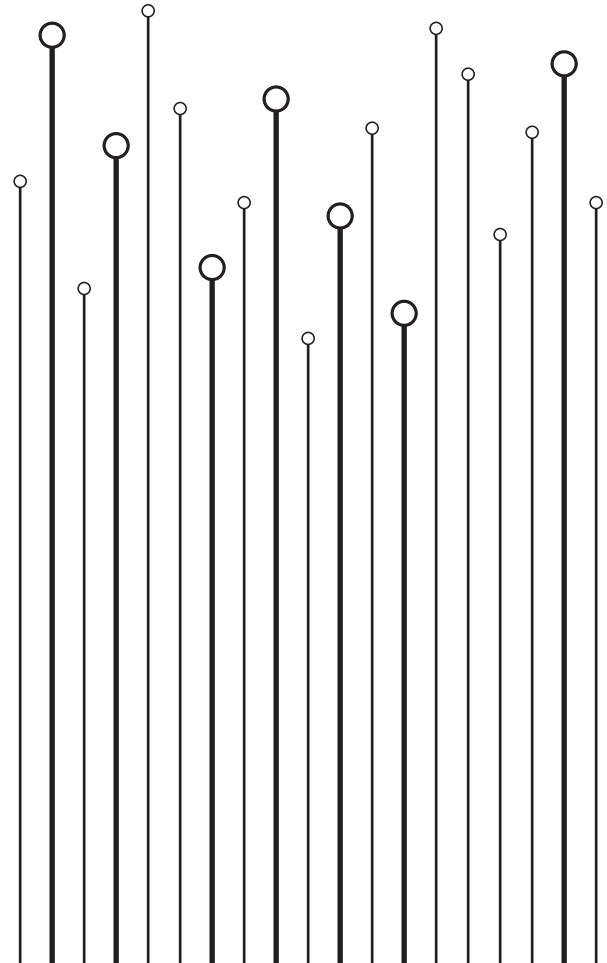
HIV/STI Prevention Studies

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STI
Sexually
Transmitted
Infection

Learn to Protect Yourself



	CHLAMYDIA	GENITAL WARTS HPV	GONORRHEA	HERPES HSV	HIV/AIDS	SYPHILIS
What is it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chlamydia affects women and men. In men, chlamydia can cause NGU (inflammation of the urethra), not caused by gonorrhea. Symptoms show up 7–28 days after having sex. Most women and some men have no symptoms. <p>Symptoms could look like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discharge from the vagina. Bleeding from the vagina between periods and/or with intercourse. A watery drip from the penis. Burning/pain when you pee. Need to pee more often. Often has no symptoms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptoms show up 1–8 months after contact with HPV, the virus that causes genital warts. Small, bumpy warts on the sex organs and anus. Itching or burning around the sex organs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptoms show up 2–21 days after having sex. Most women and some men have no symptoms. <p>Symptoms could look like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thick yellow or white discharge from vagina, pain with intercourse. Abnormal periods of bleeding between periods, pain in abdomen with advanced infection. Thick yellow or white drip from the penis (more common). Burning/pain when you pee or have a bowel movement. Need to pee more often. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptoms show up 1–30 days or longer after having sex. Some people have no symptoms. Small, painful blisters on the sex organs or mouth which last 1–3 weeks. Blisters go away, but you still have herpes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptoms show up several months to several years after contact with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Can be present for many years with no symptoms. Unexplained weight loss or tiredness. Flu-like feeling that do not go away. Diarrhea. White spots in the mouth. 	<p>1st stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptoms show up 3–12 weeks after having sex. A painless, reddish-brown open sore or sores on the mouth and sex organs. Sores last 1–5 weeks. <p>2nd stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptoms show up in 1–6 weeks. A rash anywhere on the body. Flu-like feelings. <p>3rd stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10–30 years later: major neurological, cardiac, skeletal disease
How do you get it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread through vaginal, anal, and oral sex with someone who has chlamydia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread during vaginal, anal, and oral sex with someone who has genital warts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread during vaginal, anal, and oral sex with someone that has gonorrhea. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread during vaginal, anal, and oral sex with someone who has herpes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread during vaginal, and anal, sex with someone who has HIV. Spread by sharing needles to inject drugs, or for any other reason. Spread by contact with infected blood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread during vaginal, anal, and oral sex with someone who has syphilis.
If you don't get it treated...?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can give chlamydia to your sexual partner(s). Reproductive organs can be damaged. May cause infertility. A mother can give it to her baby during childbirth. Cured with antibiotics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can give genital warts to your sexual partner(s). Warts may go away on their own, remain unchanged, or grow and spread. They also can be treated—ask your doctor! Some strains of HPV are linked to cervical cancer. NO cure, only treatment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can give gonorrhea to your sexual partner(s). Can lead to serious infection. May cause infertility A mother with gonorrhea can give it to her baby during childbirth. Cured with antibiotics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can give herpes to your sexual partner(s). NO cure, only treatment A mother with herpes can give it to her baby during childbirth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can give HIV to your sexual partner(s) or someone you share a needle with. No cure, only treatment. Will cause illness and death. A mother with HIV can give it to her baby in the womb, during childbirth, or while breastfeeding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can give syphilis to your sexual partner(s). A mother with syphilis can give it to her baby during pregnancy or have a miscarriage. Can cause heart disease, brain damage, blindness, and death. Cured with antibiotics in 1st or 2nd stage

Note: Hepatitis A, B, and C may be sexually transmitted. See Hepatitis Brochure in Link Center.