

"LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX, BABY."

We get it: talking about STD testing can be awkard, intimidating, and embarrassing with a new sex partner.

What if it didn't have to be?

We created this do and don't guide to offer a few tips to spark the conversation, stay protected, and have some fun along the way (grrr)! So cue up the Salt-n-Pepa, and let's start talking!

Do learn the facts about STD testing.

The CDC estimates 19 million *new* STD infections each year. Whoa! And this includes people from all walks of life—whether you're a two-partner gal to a hundred-partner guy. Knowing that everyone is vulnerable to STDs eases the conversation.

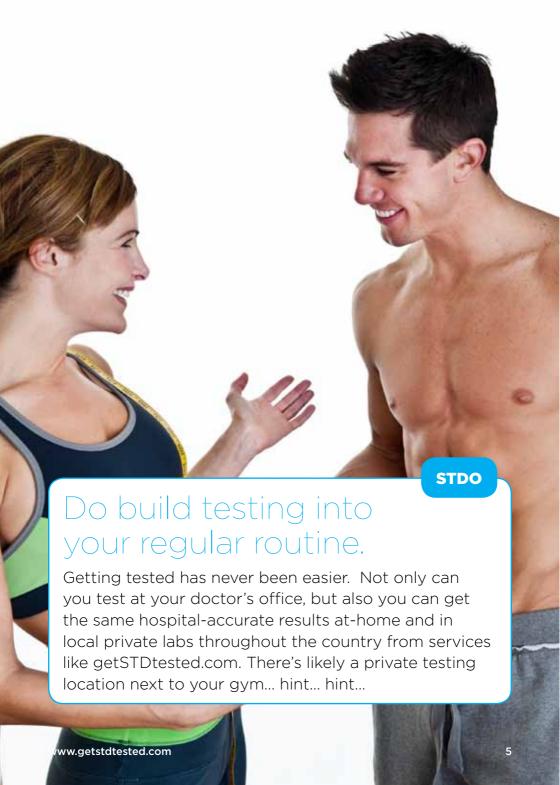


STDON'T

Don't lose your cool.

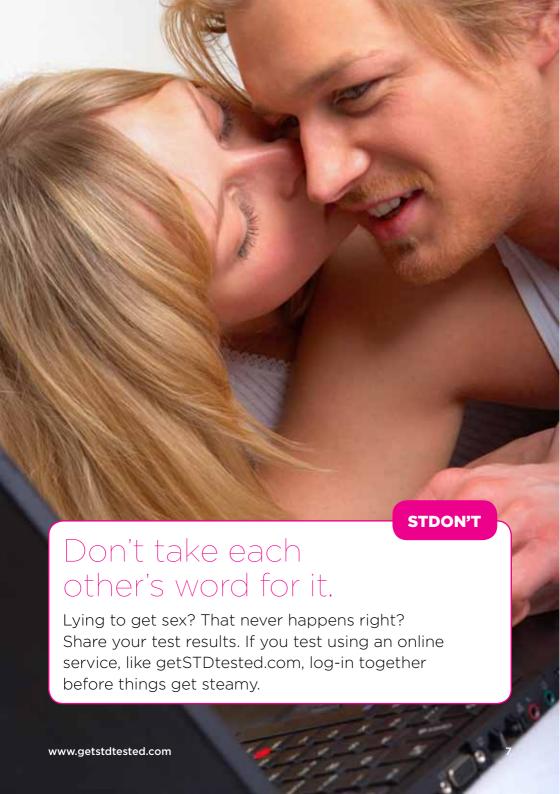
STD testing is naturally a very sensitive topic. Approach it calmly and rationally. Explain that this isn't an accusation, but rather a discussion on how the two of you can sexually and safely strengthen your relationship.







STD testing should be a two-way street. If you expect your partner to test, he or she deserves the same courtesy back. Doing it together can also reduce any chance that your partner feels like he or she isn't trusted in the relationship.





STDO

Do have a plan.

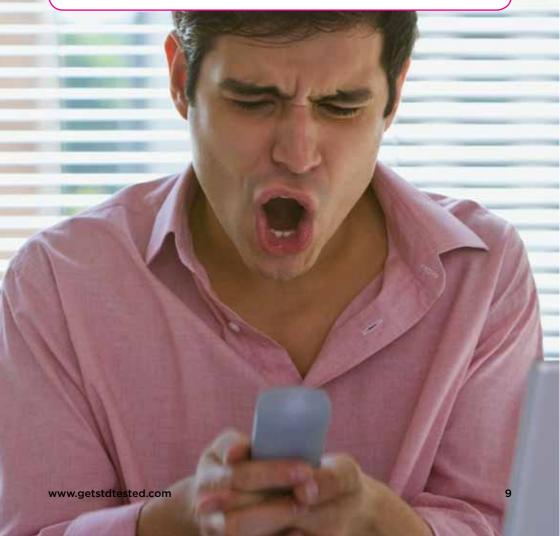
You should be prepared for a possible STD-positive result—that *is* why you're taking the test in the first place, right? Before you get tested, discuss how the two of you can overcome a positive result together. In many cases, a common STD can be cured with a simple antibiotic, however, chronic conditions such as HIV and genital herpes require vigilance and protection to protect the other partner.

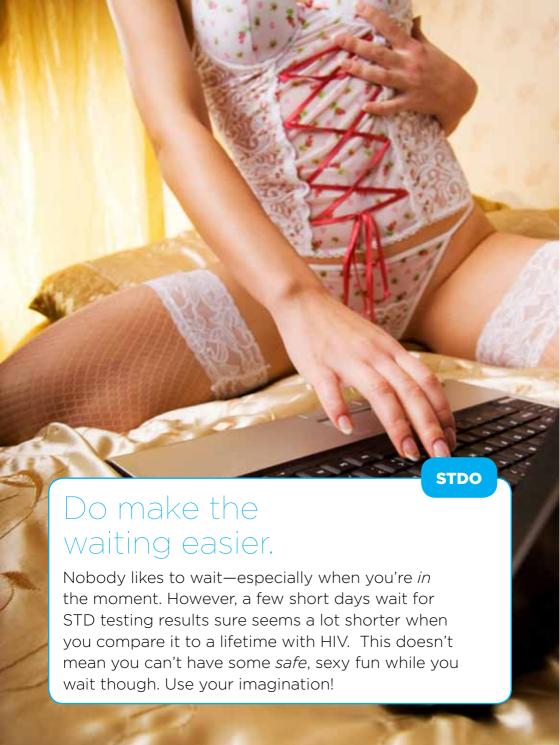


Don't text!

Before, during, and after testing - don't use text messages to relay information back and forth. These are conversations that deserve analog face time, especially when the news might not always be so sunny.

(Plus, we don't even want to guess what the emoticon for herpes would look like.)







Do have fun!

After you both share great results, well, we think you know what to do next!





getSTDtested.com provides hospital-accurate, private STD testing.

We offer in-home and same-day local lab testing at over 4,000 nationwide locations.

