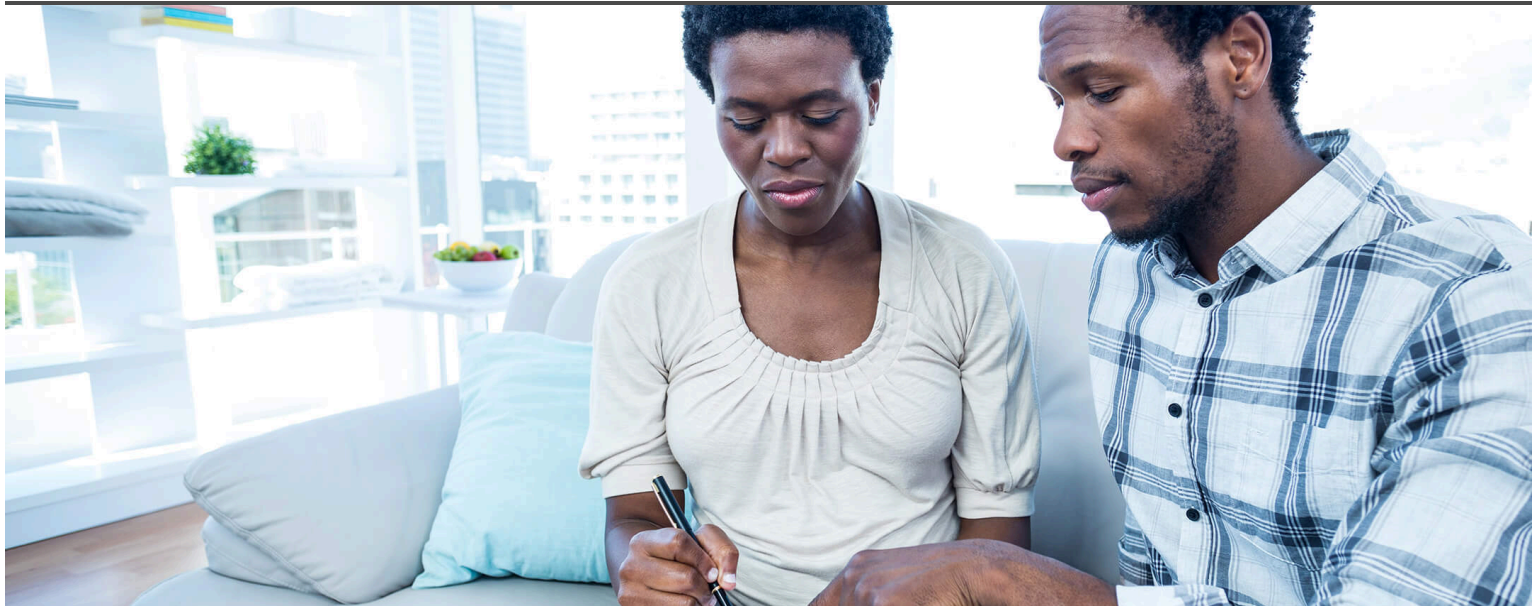


# Genital herpes



**Genital herpes is a [sexually transmitted infection \(STI\)](#)** (PDF, 187 KB). Genital herpes is usually spread by having vaginal, oral, or anal sex. One in five women ages 14 to 49 has genital herpes.<sup>1</sup> There is no cure for herpes. But you can take medicine to prevent outbreaks and to lower your risk of passing genital herpes to your partner.

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Does a cold sore on my mouth mean I have genital herpes?	+
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What should I do if I have genital herpes?	+

<b>How does genital herpes affect pregnancy?</b>	<b>+</b>
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The Office on Women's Health is grateful for the medical review by:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) staff

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