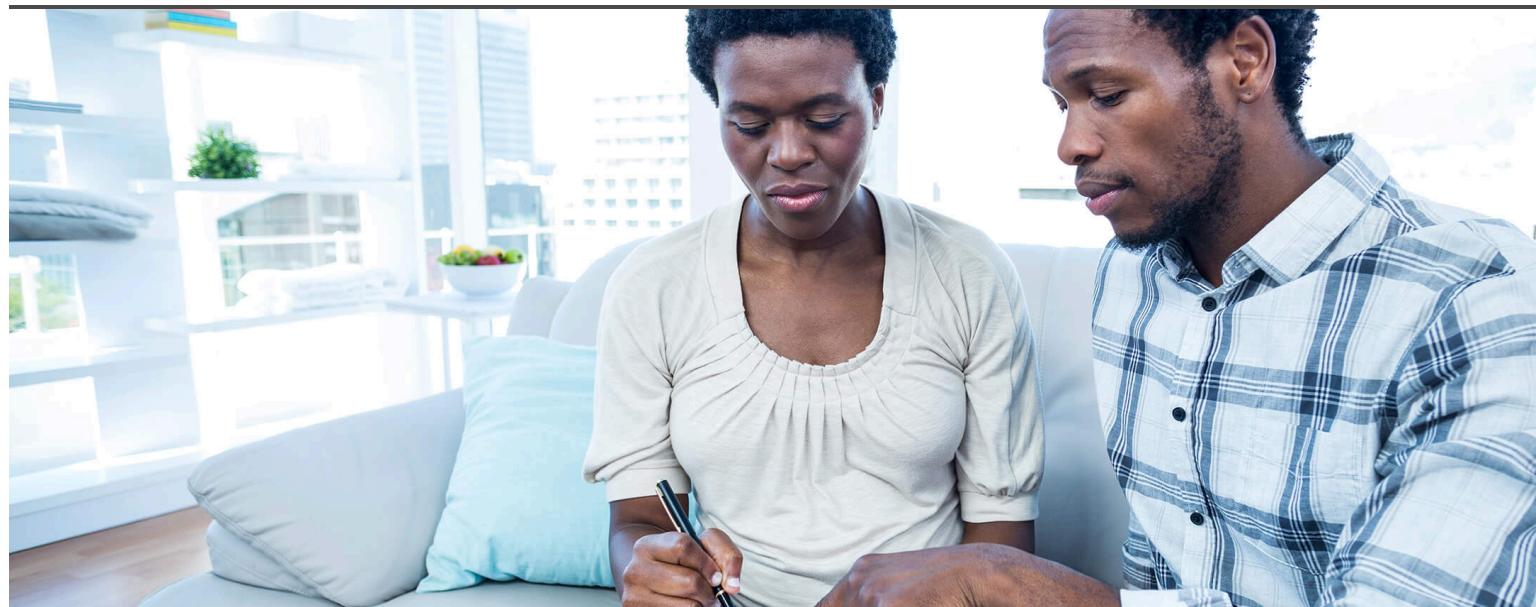


# Genital herpes



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.

[Expand All](#)**What is genital herpes?** +**Who gets genital herpes?** +**How do you get genital herpes?** +**Does a cold sore on my mouth mean I have genital herpes?** +**What is the difference between genital herpes and genital warts?** +**What are the symptoms of genital herpes?** +**How is genital herpes diagnosed?** +**How is genital herpes treated?** +**Can genital herpes come back?** +**What should I do if I have genital herpes?** +

**How does genital herpes affect pregnancy?**

+

**Can pregnant women take genital herpes medicine?**

+

**Can I breastfeed if I have genital herpes?**

+

**Can genital herpes cause other problems?**

+

**How can I prevent genital herpes?**

+

**Can women who have sex with women get genital herpes?**

+

**Did we answer your question about genital herpes?**

+

## Sources

The Office on Women's Health is grateful for the medical review by:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) staff

All material contained on these pages are free of copyright restrictions and maybe copied, reproduced, or duplicated without permission of the Office on Women's Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Citation of the source is appreciated.

Page last updated: January 6, 2023