Chancroid
(caused by *Haemophilus ducreyi*, a bacteria)

**NOTE:** Chancroid is rare in the U.S. If you have signs or symptoms of any sexually transmitted disease you should see a health care provider for evaluation and possible treatment.

**SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS**
- Painful and draining open sores in the genital area
- Painful, swollen lymph nodes in the groin
- Begin 4-10 days after exposure

**TRANSMISSION**
Chancroid is spread by:
- Vaginal sex
- Oral sex
- Anal sex
- Skin to skin contact with infected lesion or sores

**COMPLICATIONS**
If left untreated, chancroid:
- Can spread to sex partners
- Makes it easier to transmit or acquire HIV during sex
- Can cause destruction of foreskin tissue on penis
- Sores can become infected with other germs

**PREVENTION**
- Avoiding vaginal, oral or anal sex is the best way to prevent STDs.
- Latex condoms, when used consistently and correctly, can reduce the risk of chancroid only when the infected areas are covered or protected by the condom.
- Always use latex condoms during vaginal and anal sex.
- Use a latex condom for oral sex on a penis.
- Use a latex barrier (dental dam or condom cut in half) for oral sex on a vagina or anus.
- Limit the number of sex partners.
- Notify sex partners immediately if infected.
- Infected sex partners should be tested and treated.

**TESTING AND TREATMENT**
- Get a test from a medical provider if infection is suspected.
- Chancroid can be cured using medication prescribed by a medical provider.
- Partners should be treated at the same time.

**NOTE:** A person can be re-infected after treatment.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**
Minnesota Department of Health
STD and HIV Section
(651) 201-5414
[www.health.state.mn.us/std](http://www.health.state.mn.us/std)

Minnesota Family Planning and STD Hotline
1-800-783-2287 Voice/TTY; (651) 645-9360 (Metro)
[www.sexualhealthmn.org](http://www.sexualhealthmn.org)

American Social Health Association (ASHA)
[www.ashastd.org](http://www.ashastd.org)

CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines
1-800-CDC-INFO; 1-888-232-6348 TTY
[www.cdc.gov/std](http://www.cdc.gov/std)