

# Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV)

(caused by 3 subtypes of *Chlamydia trachomatis*, a bacteria)

**NOTE:** LGV 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

Early stage LGV symptoms:

- Begin 3–12 days or longer after exposure
- Early symptoms often go unnoticed or never occur
- Soft red, painless sore or lesion that forms on or near the genitals or anus
- Sores can also occur in the throat or mouth from oral sex
- The sore heals rapidly in a few days

Later stage LGV symptoms:

- Begin 2–6 weeks or longer after primary lesion
- Swollen lymph glands on one or both sides of the groin
- Pain during urination or when passing stools
- Constipation
- Rectal bleeding
- Pain in lower abdomen or back
- Pus-filled or bloody diarrhea
- Fever, chills, joint pain, decreased appetite and tiredness

## TRANSMISSION

LGV is spread by:

- Vaginal sex
- Oral sex
- Anal sex

## COMPLICATIONS

If left untreated, LGV can:

- Spread to sex partners.
- Cause severe scarring and deformed genitals.
- Cause scarring of rectum causing narrowing.
- In women, create an opening between the vagina and anus (fistula).
- Cause brain inflammation (very rare).

## 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 transmission of LGV.
- 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.
- Make sure partners are tested and treated.

## TESTING AND TREATMENT

- Get a test from a medical provider if infection is suspected.
- LGV can be cured using medication prescribed by medical provider.
- Partners should be treated at 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)