

# Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)

(most common causes: chlamydia or gonorrhea infection)

## BACKGROUND

PID is an infection of the female reproductive organs (uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries). Many types of germs can cause PID, but chlamydia and gonorrhea are the most common.

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- May be absent or mild
- Pain in lower abdomen
- Fever
- Abnormal vaginal bleeding or discharge
- Burning or pain during urination
- Pain during sex

## TRANSMISSION

Germs that cause PID are spread by vaginal sex.

## COMPLICATIONS

If left untreated, PID can cause:

- Ectopic (tubal) pregnancy
- Infertility
- Chronic pelvic pain

## 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 germs that cause PID.
- Always use latex condoms during vaginal and anal sex.
- Limit the number of sex partners.
- Get a test from a doctor or other medical provider if infection is suspected.

## TESTING AND TREATMENT

- Get a test from a medical provider if infection is suspected.
- PID can be cured using medication prescribed by medical provider.

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

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Minnesota Department of Health  
 STD and HIV Section  
 (651) 201-5414; (651) 201-5797 TTY  
[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)

