

STD Summary

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

See a doctor or clinic if these symptoms are present:

For women:

- Unusual discharge or smell from the vagina
- Burning or itching around the vagina
- Bleeding from vagina not associated with period
- Pelvic pain during sexual intercourse
- Persistent, unexplained pain in pelvic area

For men:

- Pus or other discharge from penis

For both women and men:

- Sores, bumps or blisters on or near the genitals, mouth or anus
- Burning and pain during urination or a bowel movement
- Swelling in the groin (the area around your genitals)

Remember:

- Many STDs have no signs and symptoms. Sometimes, the symptoms go away but the STD is still present.
- Some people believe that if a blood sample is taken during a visit to the doctor that they are checking for STDs. This may not be true.
- People should talk to their doctors about being tested for STDs if they are at risk.
- Testing for STDs may not be done during routine gynecological exams for women.

TRANSMISSION

Most STDs are spread by:

- Vaginal sex
- Oral sex
- Anal sex
- Infected mother to newborn

COMPLICATIONS

If left untreated, some STDs can:

- Spread to sex partners or needle-sharing partners
- Be serious and painful
- Cause permanent damage to reproductive organs
- Lead to infertility in men and women
- Infect newborns, and may lead to serious complications and even death of infants
- Cause heart disease, blindness, arthritis, brain damage or death

PREVENTION

- Avoiding vaginal, oral or anal sex is the best way to prevent STDs.
- Limit the number of sex partners.
- Latex condoms, when used consistently and correctly, are highly effective in preventing transmission of HIV and most STDs.
- 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.
- Notify sex partners immediately if you have an STD.
- Make sure partners are tested and treated at same time to prevent re-infection.

TESTING AND TREATMENT

- Get a test from a medical provider if infection is suspected.
- Some STDs can be cured using medication prescribed by a medical provider.
- Don't use home remedies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Minnesota Department of Health
STD and HIV Section
(651) 201-5414
www.health.state.mn.us/std

Minnesota AIDS Project AIDSLINE
(612) 373-AIDS (Metro)
1-800-248-AIDS (State)
(612) 373-2465 TTY (Metro)
1-888-820-2437 TTY (State)
www.mnaidsproject.org

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

American Social Health Association (ASHA)
www.ashastd.org

CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines
1-800-CDC-INFO; 1-888-232-6348 TTY
www.cdc.gov/std, www.cdc.gov/hiv