

# GET YOURSELF TESTED

Testing is confidential.  
If you are under 18 years old, you can be checked for STDs without parental consent.

## Throat and Rectum Infections

Gonorrhea can infect the throat or rectum. Anyone who has oral or anal sex can get infections at these sites. Many people with these infections don't have symptoms or don't recognize them as being from an STD.

- If you have a throat infection, you may get swollen glands (lymph nodes) in your neck.
- If you have a rectal infection, you may have bleeding, itching, soreness, or pus discharge from your rectum. Bowel movements may also be painful.

It is important to tell a health care provider if you have any of these symptoms.

## Why does treating gonorrhea matter?

Gonorrhea can be easily cured with antibiotics from a health care provider.

If gonorrhea is not treated, it can cause permanent damage.

- Women can get pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), an infection of the reproductive system. PID. It can lead to permanent damage, including infertility (not being able to have children). Other symptoms include mild to severe belly pain and fever.

- Men can develop severe swelling and pain to the testicles. This can cause sterility - the inability to make sperm and have children.
- Babies are usually treated with an antibiotic shortly after birth. If a baby with gonorrhea isn't treated, they may become blind.

## What about my sex partners?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease. If you have gonorrhea, your sex partners should get tested. If they have gonorrhea, they will need to take medicine to cure the infection.

You can get re-infected with gonorrhea, even if you've had it before.

## For More Information

Contact a health care provider or your local STD clinic.

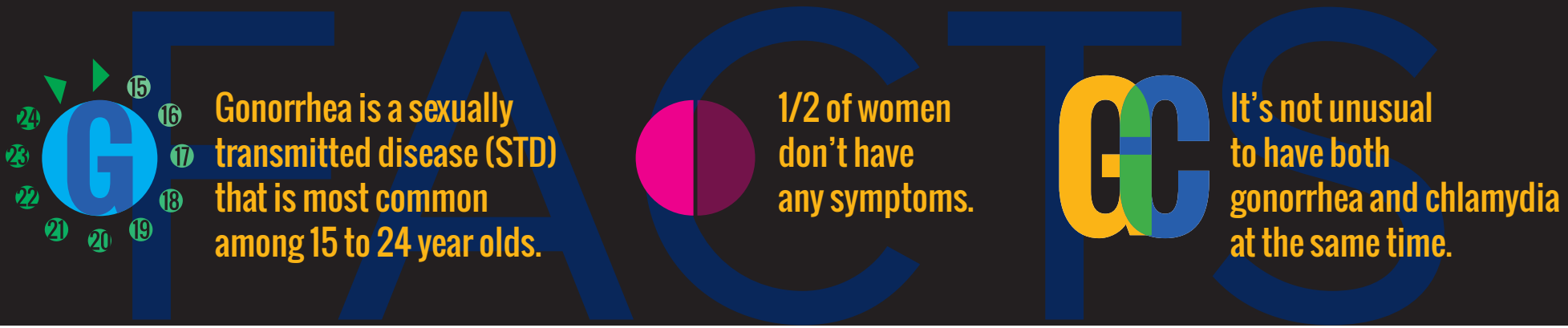
To learn more about STDs, or to find your local STD clinic, visit [www.health.ny.gov/STD](http://www.health.ny.gov/STD).

You can find other STD testing locations at <https://gettested.cdc.gov>.



Department  
of Health





## What is gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by bacteria that you can get from oral, vaginal or anal sex. Gonorrhea can infect the genitals (penis, vagina), mouth and rectum. It can be prevented, and it can be cured. Without treatment, gonorrhea can cause serious damage.

## How can I prevent gonorrhea?

- **Don't have sex:** Not having sex is the only 100% effective way to avoid STDs like gonorrhea.
- **Use a Condom:** Use a latex or polyurethane condom every time you have oral, vaginal or anal sex. Condoms greatly lower your risk of getting gonorrhea. They also help prevent pregnancy and the spread of other STDs including HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Use a dental dam for oral sex by placing it over the vagina or anus. Dental dams are thin squares of latex.
- **Use a dental dam:** A dental dam is a thin square of latex. It can be placed over the vagina or anus during oral sex to protect you from STDs.

## What if I've been exposed to gonorrhea?

- **Get Tested:** If you are sexually active, you should get tested for gonorrhea and other STDs. It is best if you get tested before you start having sex with a new partner. Your partner should also get tested before you start having sex. Don't have sex until you get your test results. You should also get tested:
  - If you think you might have been exposed to gonorrhea or another STD, or
  - If you have any signs or symptoms of gonorrhea.
- **Get Treated:** Gonorrhea is easily cured with antibiotics prescribed by a health care provider. Do not have sex until at least 7 days after you and your partner(s) finish all your medicine. This gives the medicine time to work, and reduces your risk of getting infected again.

Your test results are **confidential**. If you are under 18 years old, you do not need your parent's consent to get tested and treated for gonorrhea and other STDs. See the back panel for information on where to get tested.

## What are the signs and symptoms?

Many people with gonorrhea don't have any symptoms and don't feel sick. However, gonorrhea can be spread and cause serious health problems, even without symptoms.

Men	Women
Most men (6 out of 7 men with gonorrhea) do have symptoms	About half of women with gonorrhea don't have symptoms
Pus or a "drip" from the penis	Greenish-yellow fluid (discharge) from vagina or from the urethra
Itching or burning when urinating	Spotting or bleeding, between periods or during sex
Redness and swelling of the opening in the penis	Pain during sex
A swollen penis (rare)	

## Gonorrhea and Pregnant Women

- A baby can become infected during vaginal childbirth (not a c-section) if the mother is infected. This typically affects the baby's eyes, but can damage other parts of the body.