

Fact Sheet

Chlamydia

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a bacteria.

How do you get Chlamydia?

The infection can be spread through unprotected vaginal, anal, or oral sex. A woman may pass on the infection to her baby during vaginal childbirth.

What are the symptoms of Chlamydia?

Most people who have Chlamydia have no symptoms.

In women, signs and symptoms may include:

- fever
- a burning sensation when peeing;
- abnormal vaginal discharge, or bleeding in between menstrual cycles (periods);
- lower back pain;
- lower abdominal pain; and
- pain during sex.

Chlamydia may cause a painful, long term condition called pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and could lead to infertility and sterility (unable to have a child).

In men signs and symptoms may include:

- a burning sensation when peeing;
- clear or cloudy looking discharge from the tip of the penis;
- burning or itching around the opening of the penis; and/or
- pain and swelling around the testicles.

Individuals (men and women) who participate in oral sex with someone infected with Chlamydia may develop a bacterial infection of the throat.

How do you get tested for Chlamydia?

Testing for Chlamydia is done with a simple urine test. If you think you have been infected with Chlamydia, visit your Community or Public Health centre and ask the doctor or nurse to be tested.

How is Chlamydia treated?

Chlamydia can be treated with antibiotics. It is important to receive treatment as early as possible. If left untreated, Chlamydia may cause serious damage to your health.

What Can You Do?

- Get tested for other STIs, as it is possible to have more than one infection at a time.
- All your sexual partners need to be tested and treated if they have the infection. This will help prevent any long-term problems and reduce the risk of re-infection and reduce the continuous spread of Chlamydia to others.

Visit (<http://www.irespectmyself.ca>) to learn more about sexual health and relationships.

