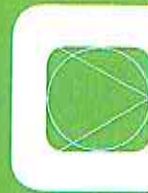


PROTECT YOURSELF + PROTECT YOUR PARTNER

chlamydia  
THE FACTS





PROTECT YOURSELF + PROTECT YOUR PARTNER

#### THE FACTS

- Chlamydia (cla MI dee a) is a sexually transmitted disease (STD).
- Anyone can get chlamydia. It is very common among teens and young adults.
- Young, sexually active females need testing every year.
- Most people who have chlamydia don't know it. Often the disease has no symptoms.
- You can pass chlamydia to others without knowing it.
- Chlamydia is easy to treat and cure.
- If you do not treat chlamydia, it can lead to serious health problems.





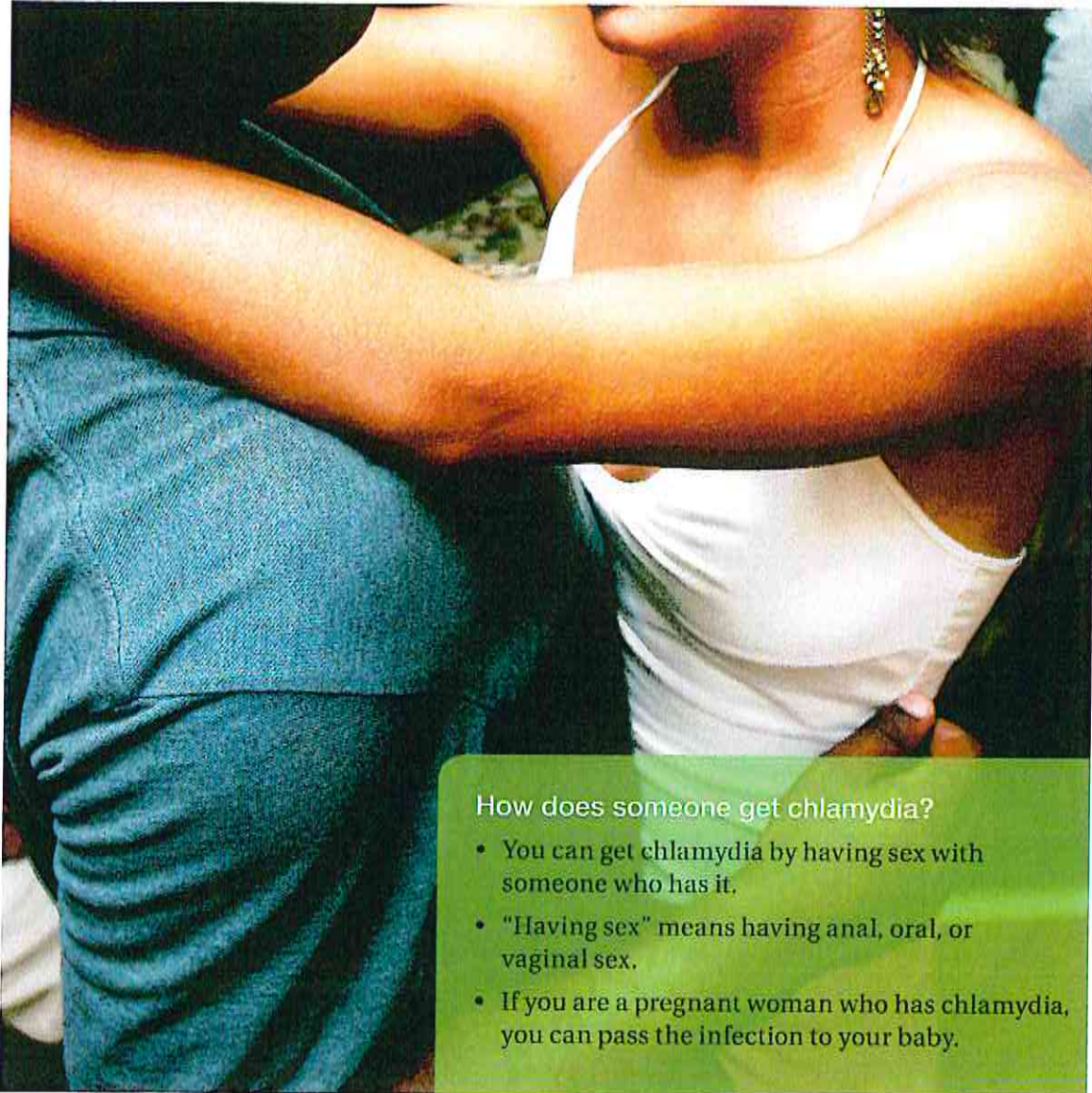
PROTECT YOURSELF + PROTECT YOUR PARTNER



#### HOW CAN I LOWER MY RISK FOR CHLAMYDIA?

- The **surest way** to prevent chlamydia is not to have sex or to have sex only with someone who's not infected and who has sex only with you.
- Condoms can reduce your risk of getting chlamydia if used the right way every single time you have sex.
- Washing the genitals, urinating, or douching after sex will **not** prevent any STD.





#### How does someone get chlamydia?

- You can get chlamydia by having sex with someone who has it.
- "Having sex" means having anal, oral, or vaginal sex.
- If you are a pregnant woman who has chlamydia, you can pass the infection to your baby.

## What are the symptoms of chlamydia?

### IF YOU ARE A WOMAN

The majority of chlamydial infections in women do not cause any symptoms. You can get chlamydia in the cervix (opening to the womb), rectum, or throat. You may not notice any symptoms. But if you do have symptoms, you might notice:

- An unusual discharge from your vagina.
- Burning when you urinate.
- Discomfort or bleeding when you have sex.

If the infection spreads, you might get lower abdominal pain, pain during sex, nausea, or fever.

### IF YOU ARE A MAN

The majority of chlamydial infections in men do not cause any symptoms. You can get chlamydia in the urethra (inside the penis), rectum, or throat. You may not notice any symptoms. But if you do have symptoms, you might notice:

- A discharge from your penis.
- Burning when you urinate.
- Burning or itching around the opening of your penis.



## How can I find out if I have chlamydia?

Ask a doctor to give you a test for chlamydia. The test is easy and painless.

## When should I be tested?

### IF YOU ARE A WOMAN

You should be tested for chlamydia at least once a year if you are:

- 25 or younger and you're having sex.
- Older than 25 and you're having sex with more than one partner.
- Older than 25 and you have a new sex partner.
- Pregnant.

### IF YOU ARE A MAN

See a doctor if you notice a discharge or feel a burning around your penis.

### MEN AND WOMEN

See a doctor if your partner has chlamydia or symptoms that might be chlamydia.

### If I have chlamydia, what does that mean for my partner?

- Your partner may have chlamydia, too.
- Tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested and treated.
- Avoid having sex until seven days after you've both started your treatment, so you don't re-infect each other.



## How is chlamydia treated?

- Chlamydia can be treated and cured with antibiotics.
- Finish all of the medicine to be sure you are cured.
- Do not share your medicine with anyone. You need all of it.
- If you still have symptoms after treatment, go back to see the doctor.
- You should get tested again about three months after you finish your treatment. This is especially important if you are not sure if your partner was also treated.

## Can I get chlamydia again after I've been treated?

Yes, you can get chlamydia again. You can get it from an untreated partner or a new partner.

## What happens if I don't get treated?

### IF YOU ARE A WOMAN

- If untreated, chlamydia can spread into the uterus or fallopian tubes and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), a serious infection of the reproductive organs.
- PID can cause damage in your fallopian tubes. This damage may leave you unable to get pregnant or lead to an ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy outside the uterus).
- PID may also cause chronic pain in your pelvic area.
- If you have untreated chlamydia, you could pass the infection to your baby when giving birth. Chlamydia can cause serious health problems for babies.

### IF YOU ARE A MAN

Chlamydia rarely causes long-term health problems in men. You may get an infection in the tube that carries sperm from the testes. This infection can cause pain and fever. In rare cases, this infection may prevent you from fathering children.



A message for everyone

**PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR PARTNER.**

Always see a doctor if your partner is being treated for chlamydia. You and your partner need to be treated. Also, see the doctor if you or your partner notice any symptoms, such as an unusual discharge. Be sure to tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested, too. Talk openly and honestly with your partner about chlamydia and other STDs.

For more information

- Talk to your doctor.
- Call 1-800-CDC-INFO.
- Visit [www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia](http://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia)

CDC Publication No. 99-8824



PROTECT YOURSELF + PROTECT YOUR PARTNER

gonorrhea  
THE FACTS





PROTECT YOURSELF + PROTECT YOUR PARTNER

### THE FACTS

- Gonorrhea (gon a REE a) is a sexually transmitted disease (STD).
- Anyone who is sexually active can get gonorrhea. It is more common among teens and young adults.
- Many people who have gonorrhea don't know it. Especially in women, the disease often has no symptoms.
- You can pass gonorrhea to others without knowing it.
- Gonorrhea can be cured with the right treatment.
- If you do not treat gonorrhea, it can lead to serious health problems.





PROTECT YOURSELF + PROTECT YOUR PARTNER

#### HOW CAN I LOWER MY RISK FOR GONORRHEA?



- The **surest way** to prevent gonorrhea is not to have sex or to have sex only with someone who's not infected and who has sex only with you.
- Condoms can reduce your risk of getting gonorrhea if used the right way every single time you have sex.
- Washing the genitals, urinating, or douching after sex will **not** prevent any STD.





### How does someone get gonorrhea?

You can get gonorrhea by having sex with someone who has it. Having sex" means having anal, oral, or vaginal contact.

If you are a pregnant woman who has gonorrhea, you can pass the infection to your baby.



## What are the symptoms of gonorrhea?

### IF YOU ARE A WOMAN

You can get gonorrhea in the anus, eyes, mouth, throat, urinary tract, or uterus. You may not notice any symptoms. If you do have symptoms, they will vary depending on what part of your body is infected.

If you have gonorrhea in the uterus or urinary tract, you might notice these symptoms:

- Vaginal bleeding between your periods.
- Pain or burning when you pass urine.
- Increased vaginal discharge.

If you have gonorrhea in the rectum, you might notice these symptoms: Itching, soreness, bleeding, a discharge from your rectum, or painful bowel movements.

If you have gonorrhea in the throat, you might notice that your throat is sore.

### IF YOU ARE A MAN

You can get gonorrhea in the anus, eyes, mouth, penis, or throat. You may not notice any symptoms. If you do have symptoms, they will vary depending on what part of your body is infected.

If you have gonorrhea in the penis, you might notice these symptoms:

- Pain or burning when you pass urine.
- A discharge from your penis.
- Painful or swollen testicles.

If you have gonorrhea in the rectum, you might notice: Itching, soreness, bleeding, a discharge from your rectum, or painful bowel movements.

If you have gonorrhea in the throat, you might notice that your throat is sore.

## When should I be tested?

### IF YOU ARE A WOMAN

You should be tested for gonorrhea if you have:

- Any symptoms, like pain or burning when you pass urine or vaginal discharge.
- A partner who has gonorrhea or symptoms that might be gonorrhea.
- Another STD, such as chlamydia.

If you're pregnant, ask the doctor if you should be tested for gonorrhea.

### IF YOU ARE A MAN

You should be tested for gonorrhea if you have:

- A discharge from your penis. You may also feel pain inside your penis.
- Pain or burning when you pass urine.
- Itching, soreness, bleeding, or rectal discharge, if you have receptive anal intercourse.
- A partner that has gonorrhea or symptoms that might be gonorrhea.
- Another STD, such as chlamydia.



### How can I find out if I have gonorrhea?


Ask a doctor to give you a test for gonorrhea.





### How is gonorrhea treated?

- Gonorrhea can be treated and cured with antibiotics.
- Finish all of the medicine to be sure you are cured.
- Don't share your medicine with anyone. You need all of it.
- If you still have symptoms after treatment, go back to see the doctor.



### Can I get gonorrhea again after I've been treated?

Yes, you can get gonorrhea again. You can get it from an untreated partner or a new partner.

### If I have gonorrhea, what does that mean for my partner?

- Your partner may have gonorrhea, too.
- Be sure to tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested and treated.
- Avoid having sex until you've both finished your treatment, so you don't re-infect each other.



## What happens if I don't get treated?

Gonorrhea stays in your body if it is not treated. You may have a higher risk of getting HIV infection if you have unprotected sex with a partner living with HIV. Gonorrhea can also spread to the blood or joints. This condition can be very serious.

### IF YOU ARE A WOMAN

- Gonorrhea can spread into the uterus or fallopian tubes and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), a serious infection that happens when gonorrhea spreads to the reproductive organs.
- PID can also cause damage that makes you unable to get pregnant.
- Untreated gonorrhea may cause chronic pain in your pelvic area.
- If you have untreated gonorrhea, you could pass the infection to your baby when giving birth. Gonorrhea can cause serious health problems for babies.

### IF YOU ARE A MAN

- You may develop a painful condition in the testicles. In rare cases, this may prevent you from fathering children.



## A message for everyone

### PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR PARTNER.

Always see a doctor if your partner is being treated for gonorrhea. Also see the doctor if you or your sex partner notice any symptoms, such as an unusual discharge.

If you have gonorrhea, you should be tested for other STDs. Be sure to tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested too. Talk openly and honestly with your partner about gonorrhea and other STDs.

### For more information

- Talk with your doctor.
- Call 1-800-CDC-INFO.
- Visit [www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea](http://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea).

CDC Publication No. 99-8828





# Genital Herpes – CDC Fact Sheet



You can get genital herpes even if your partner has no symptoms



*Herpes is a common sexually transmitted disease (STD) that any sexually active person can get. Most people with the virus don't have symptoms. It is important to know that even without signs of the disease, it can still spread to sexual partners.*



## What is genital herpes?

Genital herpes is an STD caused by two types of viruses. The viruses are called herpes simplex type 1 and herpes simplex type 2.

## How common is genital herpes?

Genital herpes is common in the United States. In the United States, about one out of every six people aged 14 to 49 years have genital herpes.

## How is genital herpes spread?

You can get herpes by having oral, vaginal, or anal sex with someone who has the disease.

Fluids found in a herpes sore carry the virus, and contact with those fluids can cause infection. You can also get herpes from an infected sex partner who does not have a visible sore or who may not know he or she is infected because the virus can be released through your skin and spread the infection to your sex partner(s).

## How can I reduce my risk of getting herpes?

The only way to avoid STDs is to not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex.

If you are sexually active, you can do the following things to lower your chances of getting herpes:

- Being in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and has negative STD test results;
- Using latex condoms the right way every time you have sex.

Herpes symptoms can occur in both male and female genital areas that are covered by a latex condom. However, outbreaks can also occur in areas that are not covered by a condom so condoms may not fully protect you from getting herpes.

## I'm pregnant. How could genital herpes affect my baby?

If you are pregnant and have genital herpes, it is even more important for you to go to prenatal care visits. You need to tell your doctor if you have ever had symptoms of, been exposed to, or been diagnosed with genital herpes. Sometimes genital herpes infection can lead to miscarriage. It can also make it more likely for you to deliver your baby too early. Herpes infection can be passed from you to your unborn child and cause a potentially deadly infection (neonatal herpes). It is important that you avoid getting herpes during pregnancy.

If you are pregnant and have genital herpes, you may be offered herpes medicine towards the end of your pregnancy to reduce the risk of having any symptoms and passing the disease to your baby. At the time of delivery your doctor should carefully examine you for symptoms. If you have herpes symptoms at delivery, a 'C-section' is usually performed.

## How do I know if I have genital herpes?

Most people who have herpes have no, or very mild symptoms. You may not notice mild symptoms or you may mistake them for another skin



condition, such as a pimple or ingrown hair. Because of this, most people who have herpes do not know it.

Genital herpes sores usually appear as one or more blisters on or around the genitals, rectum or mouth. The blisters break and leave painful sores that may take weeks to heal. These symptoms are sometimes called "having an outbreak." The first time someone has an outbreak they may also have flu-like symptoms such as fever, body aches, or swollen glands.

Repeat outbreaks of genital herpes are common, especially during the first year after infection. Repeat outbreaks are usually shorter and less severe than the first outbreak. Although the infection can stay in the body for the rest of your life, the number of outbreaks tends to decrease over a period of years.

You should be examined by your doctor if you notice any of these symptoms or if your partner has an STD or symptoms of an STD, such as an unusual sore, a smelly discharge, burning when urinating, or, for women specifically, bleeding between periods.

### **How will my doctor know if I have herpes?**

Often times, your healthcare provider can diagnose genital herpes by simply looking at your symptoms. Providers can also take a sample from the sore(s) and test it. Have an honest and open talk with your health care provider and ask whether you should be tested for herpes or other STDs.

### **Can herpes be cured?**

There is no cure for herpes. However, there are medicines that can prevent or shorten outbreaks. One of these herpes medicines can be taken daily, and makes it less likely that you will pass the infection on to your sex partner(s).

### **What happens if I don't get treated?**

Genital herpes can cause painful genital sores and can be severe in people with suppressed immune systems. If you touch your sores or the fluids from the sores, you may transfer herpes to another part of your body, such as your eyes. Do not touch the sores or fluids to avoid spreading herpes to another part of your body. If you touch the sores or fluids, immediately wash your hands thoroughly to help avoid spreading your infection.

Some people who get genital herpes have concerns about how it will impact their overall health, sex life, and relationships. It is best for you to talk to a health care provider about those concerns, but it also is important to recognize that while herpes is not curable, it can be managed. Since a genital herpes diagnosis may affect how you will feel about current or future sexual relationships, it is important to understand how to talk to sexual partners about STDs. You can find one resource here: GYT Campaign, <http://npin.cdc.gov/stdawareness/>

If you are pregnant, there can be problems for you and your unborn child. See "I'm pregnant. How could genital herpes affect my baby?" above for information about this.

### **Can I still have sex if I have herpes?**

If you have herpes, you should tell your sex partner(s) and let him or her know that you do and the risk involved. Using condoms may help lower this risk but it will not get rid of the risk completely. Having sores or other symptoms of herpes can increase your risk of spreading the disease. Even if you do not have any symptoms, you can still infect your sex partners.

### **What is the link between genital herpes and HIV?**

Genital herpes can cause sores or breaks in the skin or lining of the mouth, vagina, and rectum. The genital sores caused by herpes can bleed easily. When the sores come into contact with the mouth, vagina, or rectum during sex, they increase the risk of giving or getting HIV if you or your partner has HIV.



Where can I get more information?

Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.cdc.gov/std](http://www.cdc.gov/std)

Personal health inquiries and information about STDs:  
CDC INFO Contact Center  
1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)  
Contact [www.cdc.gov/info](http://www.cdc.gov/info)

Resources:  
CDC National Prevention Information Network (NPIN)  
<http://www.cdcnpin.org/scripts/index.asp>  
P.O. Box 6003  
Rockville, MD 20849-6003  
E-mail: [info@cdcnpin.org](mailto:info@cdcnpin.org)

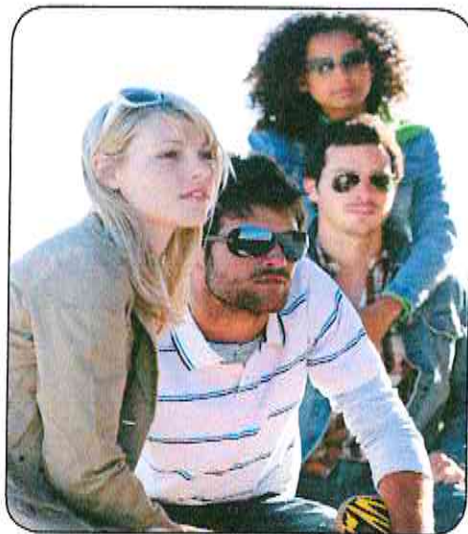
American Sexual Health Association (ASHA)  
<http://www.ashastd.org/>  
P.O. Box 13827  
Research Triangle Park,  
NC 27709-3827  
1-800-783-9877



# Genital HPV Infection – CDC Fact Sheet



**Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. Some health effects caused by HPV can be prevented with vaccines.**



## What is HPV?

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI). HPV is a different virus than HIV and HSV (herpes). HPV is so common that nearly all sexually active men and women get it at some point in their lives. There are many different types of HPV. Some types can cause health problems including genital warts and cancers. But there are vaccines that can stop these health problems from happening.

## How is HPV spread?

You can get HPV by having oral, vaginal, or anal sex with someone who has the virus. It is most commonly spread during vaginal or anal sex. HPV can be passed even when an infected person has no signs or symptoms.

Anyone who is sexually active can get HPV, even if you have had sex with only one person. You also can develop symptoms years after you have sex with someone who is infected making it hard to know when you first became infected.

## Does HPV cause health problems?

In most cases, HPV goes away on its own and does not cause any health problems. But when HPV does not go away, it can cause health problems like genital warts and cancer.

Genital warts usually appear as a small bump or group of bumps in the genital area. They can be small or large, raised or flat, or shaped like a cauliflower. A healthcare provider can usually diagnose warts by looking at the genital area.

## Does HPV cause cancer?

HPV can cause cervical and other cancers including cancer of the vulva, vagina, penis, or anus. It can also cause cancer in the back of the throat, including the base of the tongue and tonsils (called oropharyngeal cancer).

Cancer often takes years, even decades, to develop after a person gets HPV. The types of HPV that can cause genital warts are not the same as the types of HPV that can cause cancers.

There is no way to know which people who have HPV will develop cancer or other health problems. People with weak immune systems may be less able to fight off HPV and more likely to develop health problems from it, this includes people with HIV/AIDS.

## How can I avoid HPV and the health problems it can cause?

You can do several things to lower your chances of getting HPV.

**Get vaccinated.** HPV vaccines are safe and effective. They can protect males and females against diseases (including cancers) caused by HPV when given in the recommended age groups (see “Who should get vaccinated?” below). HPV vaccines are given in three shots over six months; it is important to get all three doses.

**Get screened for cervical cancer.** Routine screening for women aged 21 to 65 years old can prevent cervical cancer.

**If you are sexually active**

- Use latex condoms the right way every time you have sex. This can lower your chances of getting HPV. But HPV can infect areas that are



not covered by a condom - so condoms may not give full protection against getting HPV;

- Be in a mutually monogamous relationship – or have sex only with someone who only has sex with you.

### Who should get vaccinated?

All boys and girls ages 11 or 12 years should get vaccinated.

Catch-up vaccines are recommended for males through age 21 and for females through age 26, if they did not get vaccinated when they were younger.

The vaccine is also recommended for gay and bisexual men (or any man who has sex with a man) through age 26. It is also recommended for men and women with compromised immune systems (including people living with HIV/AIDS) through age 26, if they did not get fully vaccinated when they were younger.

### How do I know if I have HPV?

There is no test to find out a person's "HPV status." Also, there is no approved HPV test to find HPV in the mouth or throat.

There are HPV tests that can be used to screen for cervical cancer. These tests are recommended for screening only in women aged 30 years and older. They are not recommended to screen men, adolescents, or women under the age of 30 years.

Most people with HPV do not know they are infected and never develop symptoms or health problems from it. Some people find out they have HPV when they get genital warts. Women may find out they have HPV when they get an abnormal Pap test result (during cervical cancer screening). Others may only find out once they've developed more serious problems from HPV, such as cancers.

### How common is HPV and the health problems caused by HPV?

HPV (the virus): About 79 million Americans are currently infected with HPV. About 14 million people become newly infected each year. HPV is so common that most sexually-active men and women will get at least one type of HPV at some point in their lives.

Health problems related to HPV include genital warts and cervical cancer.

*Genital warts:* About 360,000 people in the United States get genital warts each year.

*Cervical cancer:* More than 11,000 women in the United States get cervical cancer each year.

There are other conditions and cancers caused by HPV that occur in persons living in the United States.

### I'm pregnant. Will having HPV affect my pregnancy?

If you are pregnant and have HPV, you can get genital warts or develop abnormal cell changes on your cervix. Abnormal cell changes can be found with routine cervical cancer screening. You should get routine cervical cancer screening even when you are pregnant.

### Can I be treated for HPV or health problems caused by HPV?

There is no treatment for the virus itself. However, there are treatments for the health problems that HPV can cause:

1. Genital warts can be treated by you or your physician. If left untreated, genital warts may go away, stay the same, or grow in size or number.
2. Cervical precancer can be treated. Women who get routine Pap tests and follow up as needed can identify problems before cancer develops. Prevention is always better than treatment. For more information visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).
3. Other HPV-related cancers are also more treatable when diagnosed and treated early. For more information visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

### Where can I get more information?

STD Information  
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/>

HPV Information  
<http://www.cdc.gov/hpv/>

HPV Vaccination  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/y-pd-vac/hpv/>

Cancer Information  
<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/>

Cervical Cancer Screening  
[http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/basic\\_info/screening.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/basic_info/screening.htm)

CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program  
<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp/>

CDC-INFO Contact Center  
1-800-CDC-INFO  
(1-800-232-4636)  
Contact [www.cdc.gov/info](http://www.cdc.gov/info)

CDC National Prevention Information Network (NPIN)  
<https://npin.cdc.gov/disease/stds>  
P.O. Box 6003  
Rockville, MD 20849-6003  
E-mail: [npin-info@cdc.gov](mailto:npin-info@cdc.gov)

National HPV and Cervical Cancer Prevention Resource Center  
American Sexual Health Association (ASHA)  
<http://www.ashasexualhealth.org/stdsstis/hpv/>  
P.O. Box 13827  
Research Triangle Park,  
NC 27709-3827  
1-800-783-9877



# HPV

also known as Human Papillomavirus

**A**s parents, you do everything you can to protect your children's health for now and for the future. Today, there is a strong weapon to prevent several types of cancer in our kids: the HPV vaccine.

## HPV and Cancer

HPV is short for Human Papillomavirus, a common virus. In the United States each year, there are about 17,500 women and 9,300 men affected by HPV-related cancers. Many of these cancers **could be prevented with vaccination**. In both women and men, HPV can cause anal cancer and mouth/throat (oropharyngeal) cancer. It can also cause cancers of the cervix, vulva and vagina in women; and cancer of the penis in men.

For women, screening is available to detect most cases of cervical cancer with a Pap smear. Unfortunately, there is no routine screening for other HPV-related cancers for women or men, and these cancers can cause pain, suffering, or even death. **That is why a vaccine that prevents most of these types of cancers is so important.**

## More about HPV

HPV is a virus passed from one person to another during skin-to-skin sexual contact, including vaginal, oral, and anal sex. HPV is most common in people in their late teens and early 20s. Almost all sexually active people will get HPV at some time in their lives, though most will never even know it.

Most of the time, the body naturally fights off HPV, before HPV causes any health problems. But in some cases, the body does not fight off HPV, and HPV can cause health problems, like cancer and genital warts. Genital warts are not a life-threatening disease, but they can cause emotional stress, and their treatment can be very uncomfortable. About 1 in 100 sexually active adults in the United States have genital warts at any given time.

## Why does my child need this now?

HPV vaccines offer the best protection to girls and boys who receive all three vaccine doses and have time to develop an immune response **before** they begin sexual activity with another person. This is not to say that your preteen is ready to have sex. In fact, it's just the opposite—it's important to get your child protected before you or your child have to think about this issue. The immune response to this vaccine is better in preteens, and this could mean better protection for your child.

## HPV vaccination is recommended for preteen girls and boys at age 11 or 12 years

HPV vaccine is also recommended for girls ages 13 through 26 years and for boys ages 13 through 21 years, who have not yet been vaccinated. So if your son or daughter hasn't started or finished the HPV vaccine series—**it's not too late!** Talk to their doctor about getting it for them now.

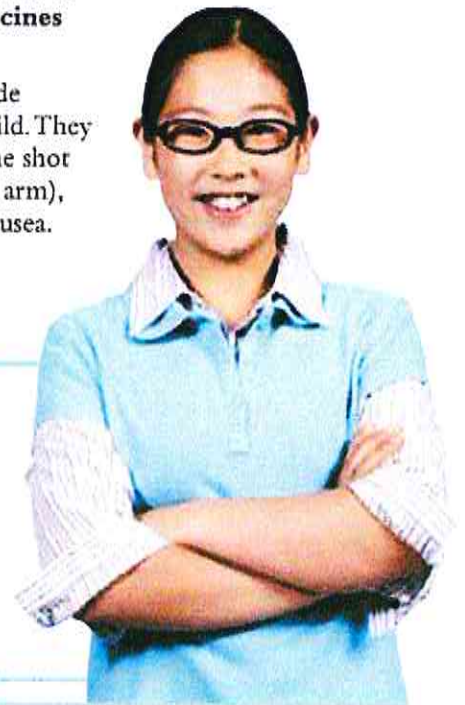
Two vaccines—Cervarix and Gardasil—are available to prevent the HPV types that cause most cervical cancers and anal cancers. One of the HPV vaccines, Gardasil, also prevents vulvar and vaginal cancers in women and genital warts in both women and men. Only Gardasil has been tested and licensed for use in males. Both vaccines are given in a series of 3 shots over 6 months. The best way to remember to get your child all three shots is to make an appointment for the second and third shot before you leave the doctor's office after the first shot.

## Is the HPV vaccine safe?

Yes. Both HPV vaccines were studied in tens of thousands of people around the world. More than 57 million doses have been distributed to date, and there have been no serious safety concerns. Vaccine safety continues to be monitored by CDC and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

**These studies continue to show that HPV vaccines are safe.**

The most common side effects reported are mild. They include: pain where the shot was given (usually the arm), fever, dizziness, and nausea.



DISTRIBUTED BY:





You may have heard that some kids faint when they get vaccinated. Fainting is common with preteens and teens for many medical procedures, not just the HPV shot. Be sure that your child eats something before going to get the vaccine. It's a good idea to have your child sit or lay down while getting any vaccine, and for 15 minutes afterwards, to prevent fainting and any injuries that could happen from fainting.

The HPV vaccine can safely be given at the same time as the other recommended vaccines, including the Tdap, meningococcal, and influenza vaccines. Learn more about all of the recommended preteen vaccines at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/teens](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/teens)

## Help paying for vaccines

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides vaccines for children ages 19 years and younger who are under-insured, not insured, Medicaid-eligible, or American Indian/Alaska Native. Learn more about the VFC program at [www.cdc.gov/Features/VFCprogram/](http://www.cdc.gov/Features/VFCprogram/)

Whether you have insurance, or your child is VFC-eligible, some doctors' offices may also charge a fee to give the vaccines.

### Jacquelyn's story: "I was healthy—and got cervical cancer."

When I was in my late 20's and early 30's, in the years before my daughter was born, I had some abnormal Pap smears and had to have further testing. I was told I had the kind of HPV that can cause cancer and mild dysplasia.

For three more years, I had normal tests. But when I got my first Pap test after my son was born, they told me I needed a biopsy. The results came back as cancer, and my doctor sent me to an oncologist. Fortunately, the cancer was at an early stage. My lymph nodes were clear, and I didn't need radiation. But I did need to have a total hysterectomy.

My husband and I have been together for 15 years, and we were planning to have more children. We are so grateful for our two wonderful children, but we were hoping for more—which is not going to happen now.

The bottom line is they caught the cancer early, but the complications continue to impact my life and my family. For the next few years, I have to get pelvic exams and Pap smears every few months, the doctors measure tumor markers, and I have to have regular x-rays and ultrasounds, just in case. I have so many medical appointments that are taking time away from my family, my friends, and my job.

**Worse, every time the phone rings, and I know it's my oncologist calling, I hold my breath until I get the results. I'm hopeful I can live a full and healthy life, but cancer is always in the back of my mind.**

In a short period of time, I went from being healthy and planning more children to all of a sudden having a radical hysterectomy and trying to make sure I don't have cancer again. It's kind of overwhelming. And I am one of the lucky ones!

Ultimately I need to make sure I'm healthy and there for my children. I want to be around to see their children grow up.

I will do everything to keep my son and daughter from going through this. I will get them both the HPV vaccine as soon as they turn 11. I tell everyone—my friends, my family—to get their children the HPV vaccine series to protect them from this kind of cancer. ❖



### What about boys?

One HPV vaccine—Gardasil—is for boys too! This vaccine can help prevent boys from getting infected with the types of HPV that can cause cancers of the mouth/throat, penis and anus. The vaccine can also help prevent genital warts. HPV vaccination of males is also likely to benefit females by reducing the spread of HPV viruses.

Learn more about HPV and HPV vaccine at [www.cdc.gov/hpv](http://www.cdc.gov/hpv)

For more information about the vaccines recommended for preteens and teens:

**800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)**

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/teens>



# Syphilis - CDC Fact Sheet



***Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that can have very serious complications when left untreated, but it is simple to cure with the right treatment.***



## What is syphilis?

Syphilis is an STD that can cause long-term complications if not treated correctly. Symptoms in adults are divided into stages. These stages are primary, secondary, latent, and late syphilis.

## How is syphilis spread?

You can get syphilis by direct contact with a syphilis sore during anal, vaginal, or oral sex. Sores can be found on the penis, vagina, anus, in the rectum, or on the lips and in the mouth. Syphilis can also be spread from an infected mother to her unborn baby.

## What does syphilis look like?

Syphilis has been called 'the great imitator' because it has so many possible symptoms, many of which look like symptoms from other diseases. The painless syphilis sore that you would get after you are first infected can be confused for an ingrown hair, zipper cut, or other seemingly harmless bump. The non-itchy body rash that develops during the second stage of syphilis can show up on the palms of your hands and soles of your feet, all over your body, or in just a few places. You could also be infected with syphilis and have very mild symptoms or none at all.

## How can I reduce my risk of getting syphilis?

The only way to avoid STDs is to not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex.

If you are sexually active, you can do the following things to lower your chances of getting syphilis:

- Being in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and has negative STD test results; and
- Using latex condoms the right way every time you have sex.



Example of a primary syphilis sore.

Washing your genitals, urinating, or douching after sex will not protect you from getting syphilis.

## Am I at risk for syphilis?

Any sexually active person can get syphilis through unprotected anal, vaginal, or oral sex. Have an honest and open talk with your health care provider and ask whether you should be tested for syphilis or other STDs. You should get tested regularly for syphilis if you are pregnant, are a man who has sex with men, have HIV infection, and/or have partner(s) who have tested positive for syphilis.

## I'm pregnant. How does syphilis affect my baby?

If you are pregnant and have syphilis, you can give the infection to your unborn baby. Having syphilis can lead to a low birth weight baby. It can also make it more likely you will deliver your baby too early or stillborn (a baby born dead).



To protect your baby, you should be tested for syphilis during your pregnancy and at delivery and receive immediate treatment if you test positive.

An infected baby may be born without signs or symptoms of disease. However, if not treated immediately, the baby may develop serious problems within a few weeks. Untreated babies can have health problems such as cataracts, deafness, or seizures, and can die.

### How do I know if I have syphilis?

Symptoms of syphilis in adults can be divided into stages:

#### Primary Stage

During the first (primary) stage of syphilis, you may notice a single sore, but there may be multiple sores. The sore is the location where syphilis entered your body. The sore is usually firm, round, and painless. Because the sore is painless, it can easily go unnoticed. The sore lasts 3 to 6 weeks and heals regardless of whether or not you receive treatment. Even though the sore goes away, you must still receive treatment so your infection does not move to the secondary stage.



Secondary rash from syphilis on palms of hands.

#### Secondary Stage

During the secondary stage, you may have skin rashes and/or sores in your mouth, vagina, or anus (also called mucous membrane lesions). This stage usually starts with a rash on one or more areas of your body. The rash can show up when your primary sore is healing or several weeks after the sore has healed. The rash can look like rough, red, or reddish brown spots on the palms of your hands and/or the bottoms of your feet. The rash usually won't itch and it is sometimes so faint that you won't notice it. Other symptoms you may have can include fever, swollen lymph glands, sore throat, patchy hair loss, headaches, weight loss, muscle aches, and fatigue (feeling very tired). The symptoms from this stage will go away whether or not you receive treatment. Without the right treatment, your infection will move to the latent and possibly late stages of syphilis.

#### Latent and Late Stages

The latent stage of syphilis begins when all of the symptoms you had earlier disappear. If you do not receive treatment, you can continue to have syphilis in your body for years without any signs or symptoms. Most people with untreated syphilis do not develop late stage syphilis. However, when it does happen it is very serious and would occur 10–30 years after your infection began. Symptoms of the late stage of syphilis include difficulty coordinating your muscle movements, paralysis (not able to move certain parts of your body), numbness, blindness, and dementia (mental disorder). In the late stages of syphilis, the disease damages your internal organs and can result in death.



Secondary rash from syphilis on torso

A syphilis infection is called an 'early' case if a patient has been infected for a year or less, such as during the primary or secondary stages of syphilis. People who have 'early' syphilis infections can more easily spread the infection to their sex partners. The majority of early syphilis cases are currently found among men who have sex with men, but women and unborn children are also at risk of infection.

### How will my doctor know if I have syphilis?

Most of the time, a blood test can be used to test for syphilis. Some health care providers will diagnose syphilis by testing fluid from a syphilis sore.



Darkfield micrograph of *Treponema pallidum*

### Can syphilis be cured?

Yes, syphilis can be cured with the right antibiotics from your health care provider. However, treatment will not undo any damage that the infection has already done.

### I've been treated. Can I get syphilis again?

Having syphilis once does not protect you from getting it again. Even after you've been successfully treated, you can still be re-infected. Only laboratory tests can confirm whether you have syphilis. Follow-up testing by your health care provider is recommended to make sure that your treatment was successful.

Because syphilis sores can be hidden in the vagina, anus, under the foreskin of the penis, or in the mouth, it may not be obvious that a sex partner has syphilis. Unless you know that your sex partner(s) has been tested and treated, you may be at risk of getting syphilis again from an untreated sex partner.

Where can I get more information?

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/>

Syphilis

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/>

Syphilis and MSM Fact Sheet

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/STDFact-MSM-Syphilis.htm>

STDs and Pregnancy Fact Sheet

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/pregnancy/STDFact-Pregnancy.htm>

STD Information and referrals to STD Clinics

CDC-INFO Contact Center

1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

Contact [www.cdc.gov/info](http://www.cdc.gov/info)