

# STIs AT A GLANCE

STI	Organism	How it's passed	Common symptoms	When symptoms show up	When to test	Tests	Treatment
<b>Bacterial Vaginosis (BV)</b>	Bacteria	Imbalance of normal bacteria (not an STI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong vaginal odour</li> <li>More vaginal discharge</li> <li>Vaginal irritation</li> </ul>	Not applicable	Varies	Swab	Cured with antibiotics
<b>Chlamydia (CT)</b>	Bacteria	Semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discharge from the vagina, penis or anus</li> <li>Burning when urinating</li> <li><b>Often there are no symptoms</b></li> </ul>	2-3 weeks up to 6 weeks (but often no symptoms)	Most results accurate after 2 weeks	Urine or swab	Cured with antibiotics
<b>Genital Warts/Human Papillomavirus (HPV)</b>	Virus	Skin-to-skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Painless bumps around genitals or buttocks</li> <li><b>Often there are no symptoms</b></li> </ul>	1-8 months	HPV testing is not available in BC Pap tests find cell changes caused by some types of HPV	Visual exam	Visible warts may be treated More than 80% of HPV infections will clear on their own in 24 months Immunization with HPV vaccine prevents some strains of HPV
<b>Gonorrhea (GC)</b>	Bacteria	Semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discharge from the vagina, penis or anus</li> <li>Burning when urinating</li> <li>Women often do not notice symptoms</li> <li>Men may notice symptoms when gonorrhea is in the penis, but not when it is in the throat or rectum</li> </ul>	2-7 days (but often no symptoms)	Most results accurate after 7 days	Urine or swab	Cured with antibiotics
<b>Hepatitis A (HAV)</b>	Virus	Fecal-oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, jaundice, fatigue, dark urine, clay-coloured stool</li> <li>70% of adults have symptoms</li> </ul>	15-50 days (average 4 weeks)	4 weeks	Blood	No treatment - virus clears from the body Immunization with Hepatitis A vaccine prevents infection.
<b>Hepatitis B (HBV)</b>	Virus	Blood, semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, jaundice, dark urine, clay-coloured stool</li> <li>30-50% of adults have symptoms</li> </ul>	45-160 days (average 90 days)	30-60 days after infection Most results accurate after 4 weeks	Blood	Virus may stay in the body or clear on its own Immunization with Hepatitis B vaccine prevents infection.
<b>Hepatitis C (HCV)</b>	Virus	Blood, body fluids containing blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, jaundice, abdominal pain, dark urine, clay-coloured stool</li> <li>20-30% of adults have symptoms</li> </ul>	2-26 weeks (average 6-7 weeks)	6-10 weeks Most acute HCV infections will be detectable within 2 weeks	Blood	Virus may stay in the body or clear on its own Treatment can cure about 70% of those treated
<b>Herpes simplex virus (HSV)</b>	Virus	Skin-to-skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Painful blisters on genitals, mouth and face</li> <li>60% of people do not notice symptoms</li> </ul>	2-21 days (average 6 days)	Swab from lesion: 2-12 days (average 6 days) Blood test: 70% of results accurate after 3 months	Swab, blood	Virus stays in the body Managed with anti-viral medication if needed
<b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)</b>	Virus	Blood, semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids, breast milk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flu-like illness, swollen lymph nodes, skin rash</li> <li><b>Many people do not notice symptoms</b></li> </ul>	2-4 weeks if seroconverting	95% of tests are accurate after 6 weeks but it can take up to 3 months for final result	Blood	Virus stays in the body, but can be managed with medication
<b>Molluscum Contagiosum</b>	Virus	Skin-to-skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small, firm, painless pink or white bumps on the skin</li> </ul>	1 weeks - 6 months	Not applicable	Visual exam	Sometimes treated with topical medication Clears from the body with time
<b>Pubic lice</b>	Parasite	Close contact, sharing clothes, bedding, towels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Genital itching</li> <li>Visible lice in and around pubic hair</li> </ul>	2 days - 3 weeks	Not applicable	Visual exam	Cured with lotion or cream rinse applied to the skin Wash all clothes and bedding in hot water or dry clean; vacuum mattresses
<b>Scabies</b>	Parasite	Skin-to-skin contact, sharing clothes, bedding or towels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Itchiness (especially at night)</li> <li>Rash between fingers, on wrists, armpits, genitals, thighs</li> </ul>	3 weeks, though symptoms may begin as soon as 1-3 days	Not applicable	Visual exam	Cured with lotion or cream applied to the body below the neck Wash all clothes and bedding in hot water or dry clean; vacuum mattresses
<b>Syphilis</b>	Bacteria	Skin-to-skin contact, fluids from a syphilis lesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Many people do not notice symptoms</b></li> </ul>	3 days - 3 months	3-4 weeks	Blood	Cured with antibiotics
<b>Trichomoniasis</b>	Parasite	Semen, vaginal fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaginal discharge</li> <li>Painful or burning urination</li> <li>Painful sex</li> </ul>	4-28 days	4-28 days	Swab	Cured with antibiotics
<b>Yeast</b>	Fungus	Imbalance of normal bacteria (not an STI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Genital area is itchy, red, sore and dry</li> <li>Painful sex</li> <li>Whitish, thick vaginal discharge</li> </ul>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Swab	Treated with creams or oral medication