

BCCDC

Quick Reference STI Screening and Testing Guide

Introduction

This quick reference provides an overview of STI tests which may be offered to both asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals, as well as a visual reference of specimen collection supplies for each test. Clinicians are encouraged to refer to the guidelines and decision support tools relevant to their practice, as well as local laboratory and site guidelines for more detailed information on testing recommendations and instructions for specimen collection.

For BCCDC Public Health Laboratory (PHL) specimen collection instructions, refer to the [eLab Handbook](#).

- Offer asymptomatic screening to individuals who:
 - Request STI testing.
 - Have new or multiple sexual partners.
 - Have a known exposure/are a contact to an STI.
- To determine the appropriate tests to offer (including extragenital tests for chlamydia and gonorrhea), complete a sexual health history.
- Additional screening may be appropriate for symptomatic individuals.
- Offer additional serologic tests (eg. Hepatitis A, B, C) in accordance with the recommendations in the relevant guidelines.

Routine STI Screening Panel for Asymptomatic Individuals

Test	Anatomical Site	Specimen Type
Chlamydia & Gonorrhea	Penile Urethra	Urine
	Vagina	Vaginal swab*
	Rectum	Rectal swab
	Throat	Throat swab
HIV	Vein (venipuncture) or capillary (dried blood spot or point-of-care)	Blood
Syphilis	Vein (venipuncture) or capillary (dried blood spot or point-of-care)	Blood

* Vaginal swab should be substituted with urine sample if an individual has had vaginoplasty, hysterectomy with cervix removed, or if individual preference is to provide urine sample.

Additional STI Tests for Symptomatic Individuals

In addition to the Routine STI Screening Panel tests indicated above, the following tests may be considered based on sexual health history, clinical presentation, and where local or regional epidemiology indicates an increase in cases/rates.









Test	Anatomical Site	Specimen Type
Bacterial vaginosis (BV) & Yeast	Vagina	Swab or Direct smear (slide for microscopy)
Gonorrhea culture	Penile urethra Cervix (preferred) or vagina Rectum Throat	Swab
Herpes Simplex Virus	Lesion	Swab
Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV)	Lesion	Swab
MPox	Lesion	Swab
Syphilis	Lesion	Swab
Trichomonas	Vagina or urine*	Swab




* Vaginal swab should be substituted with urine sample if individual has had vaginoplasty, hysterectomy with cervix removed, or if individual preference is to provide urine sample.

Specimen Collection

 STI Screening for Asymptomatic Individuals

 Additional STI Tests for Symptomatic Individuals

Test	Anatomical Site/Specimen Type	Specimen Collection Container/Kit	
Chlamydia & Gonorrhea (CT/GC NAAT)	Throat Vagina Rectum		Aptima Unisex Swab Sample Collection Kit
	Urine		Orange-top specimen container and Aptima Urine Sample Transport Kit
HIV (4 th generation Ag/Ab)	Blood		Gold top serum separator tube (SST)
Syphilis (EIA)	Blood		
Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) & Yeast	Vagina		Frosted-end slide, slide cover, and plain sterile swab
		OR 	OR COPAN (red top) Transport Swab
Gonorrhea Culture (GC C&S)	Throat Rectum Penile Urethra Cervix (preferred) or vagina		COPAN (green top) eSwab + Liquid Amies
Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV PCR)	Anogenital/oral Lesion		COPAN (blue top) + Universal Transport Media
Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV)	Lesion		Aptima Unisex Swab Sample Collection Kit

Test	Anatomical Site/Specimen Type	Specimen Collection Container/Kit	
Mpox (PCR)	Anogenital/oral Lesion		
Syphilis (<i>T. pallidum</i> NAAT/PCR)	Anogenital/oral Lesion	 OR 	
Trichomonas (NAAT)	Vagina	