

7. Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)	
What they are	STIs are caused by bacteria, viruses or parasites passed between people during sexual activity. Examples: • HIV, Syphilis, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, HPV/Genital warts, Genital herpes, Hepatitis A, B and C
Symptoms	Symptoms vary by disease, but some common symptoms include: • Pain when peeing • Lumps or growths around genitals • Unusual discharge or bleeding from genitals • Rashes  Some STIs don't have symptoms or may appear after weeks or even years.
How they spread	• Having sex without condoms or other forms of protection • Oral, genital or anal sex • Blood or genital fluids like semen or discharge • Skin to skin contact

Learn more about STIs:

- [BCCDC Smart Sex Resource](#)
- [BCCDC STI information](#)
- [HealthLinkBC: Sexually Transmitted Infections \(STIs\)](#)

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How to Manage Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)

When to get tested

Clients or staff should get tested for STIs when they:

- Have symptoms
- Had sex with someone who has an STI
- Have new or casual sexual partners

What to do if a Client may have an STI

☐ **Inform** the client that they should get tested and seek health care. They can go to a:

- Sexual health clinic: [Clinic Finder for BC](#)
- Walk-in clinic or any doctor's office
- Hospital for emergencies

☐ **Keep condoms** available for free for clients, if possible.

Learn more about safer sex methods: [Preventing STIs SmartSex Resource](#)

☐ **Discourage** sharing drug-use supplies