

# STDs: A guide for staying STD-free

## Here are some possible signs of a several common STDs.

*But, remember that people often have no symptoms—or they are very mild. Even so, the STD can still be harming that person and spreading.*

STD	When signs start	Possible signs
<b>Chlamydia</b>	About 1-3 weeks after infection	-Burning when urinating, pain during sex -Discharge from genitals -Bleeding between periods -If left untreated, could cause more serious conditions, such as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and infertility.
<b>Gonorrhea</b>	Within about 3 days or more after infection	-Discharge from genitals or anus -Painful urination -Bleeding between periods, painful or swollen testicles -If left untreated, could cause more serious conditions, such as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and infertility.
<b>HIV</b>	Varies	-Flu-like symptoms can occur early on, including swollen glands, tiredness, weight loss, and night sweats. -If left untreated, coinfections can occur, such as pneumonia and meningitis, and will lead to AIDS.
Syphilis	Varies	-First stage: round painless sores on or near genitals, anus, or mouth -Second stage: a rash, often on hands and/or feet, alopecia -At any stage, one can develop problems with vision, coordination, and confusion
Genital Herpes	Within 2-12 days after exposure	-1 or more painful blisters or other sores on or around genitals or anus -Testing can only be done with an active sore or infection -Oral herpes can be spread from the mouth to the genitals through oral sex
HPV (human papillomavirus)	Within weeks or months after infection	-Genital warts: soft, moist swelling in or around genital area that may vary in size, is pink, and sometimes cauliflower shaped. -Oral or throat cancer, anal and/or cervical cancer. -There is no penile STD test for HPV, and can be spread even with the use of condoms -There is a vaccination to prevent certain strains of HPV.
Trichomoniasis	Within about 1 month after infection	-Discharge from genitals -Vaginal odor, itching, or irritation -Pain during sex or after urination
Hepatitis A, B, and C	Varies	-Hepatitis is caused by a virus that leads to inflammation of the liver. Symptoms of an infection can include tiredness, loss of appetite, nausea or abdominal pain, dark urine or clay-colored feces, yellowing of skin and whites of eyes, and joint pain.  *Please note that Hepatitis is not an STD but can be transmitted sexually.

## Anyone can get an STD or STI (sexually transmitted disease, or infection)

- STDs can be spread during vaginal, anal or oral sex. Additionally, some STDs can spread by contact with infected sores, skin-to-skin contact, or sharing needles (for injections, tattoos, body piercings, etc.).
- If left untreated, STDs can cause serious health problems. Some of these problems include pain, sterility, cancer, harm to a baby during pregnancy—even death.
- Having one STD can make it easier to get HIV.