

# STDS: GET THE FACTS. GET TESTED. GET TREATED.

## THE FACTS

These days, people know more about HIV than about other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), even though the other STDs are much more common and can cause serious illness and death. Also, having an STD can put you at higher risk for getting HIV.

Consistent and correct use of the male latex condom reduces the risk STD and HIV transmission. However, condom use cannot provide *absolute* protection against all STDs. The most reliable ways to avoid transmission of STDs are to abstain from sexual activity or to be in a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner.

The following table lists some of the major STDs and their symptoms. If you have any of these symptoms, go see a doctor immediately. **Remember, you may not have any symptoms and still have an STD!** That is why it is important that you get tested for STDs regularly. The earlier you get tested, the earlier you can protect your life and the lives of your partners.

STD	Signs and Symptoms
<b>Chancroid</b>	Painful genital or anal area sores (ulcers) with a small amount of yellowish discharge; may also have swollen, painful glands in groin area
<b>Chlamydia</b>	Penis may have discharge (whitish) and/or burning; later on may have pain in testicles
<b>Gonorrhea</b>	Penis may have discharge (greenish) and/or burning; later on may have pain in testicles
<b>Herpes Simplex Virus</b>	Painful, itchy, or tingly sores in the genital or anal area; these sores start out as small pink bumps, then these become small blisters, then they usually break and become crusted (scabbed); there may also be swollen glands in groin area
<b>Human Papilloma Virus (Genital Warts)</b>	Most people have no obvious bumps (warts); if warts do appear, they are usually painless
<b>Syphilis</b>	Painless ulcer/sore at site where infection occurred (mouth, anus, genitals); may have body rash, wartlike genital/anal lesions/bumps; patches on pink parts
<b>Viral Hepatitis</b>	Flulike symptoms and abdominal pain, often with nausea and vomiting, and skin may have yellowish discoloration

## Get Tested. Get Treated.

Here are some places you can go to get tested and treated for STDs.

*Type in addresses and phone numbers of local STD and community health clinics.*