



What is chlamydia?

- A common sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacterium called *Chlamydia trachomatis* that can infect both men and women. In some cases, it can cause serious, permanent damage to a woman's reproductive system.

What are symptoms that could occur?

- Symptoms may occur 1-3 weeks after exposure
- Symptoms may include rectal pain, discharge, or bleeding when infected in the rectum
- Women with symptoms may notice abnormal vaginal discharge or a burning sensation while urinating
- Men with symptoms may have discharge from their penis, a burning sensation when urinating, or pain/swelling in one or both testicles (although less common)
- Most people have no symptoms

How is it spread?

- By having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has chlamydia
- If you have had it in the past and were treated, you can still get infected again

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation and laboratory testing
- Or make an appointment at the Genesee County Health Department STD Clinic, 810-257-3139
- Treatment with antibiotics prescribed by your primary care provider and should be taken as instructed
- Sexual partner(s) need treatment also even if there are no symptoms

How can chlamydia be prevented?

- Best way to avoid STDs is to not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex
- If you are sexually active:
 - Use latex condoms the right way
 - Limit your number of sexual partners
 - Consider a partner who has been tested and is negative for STDs
 - Have regular exams

Are there complications?

- In some female cases, it can cause serious, permanent damage to a woman's reproductive system, making it difficult for her to get pregnant later on in life
- It can also cause a potentially fatal ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy that occurs outside the womb)

Should the sick individual be isolated?

- No. But should abstain from vaginal, oral, and anal sex until treatment is complete

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-1017