



## What is gonorrhea?

- A sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacterium called *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, that can infect both men and women. It can cause infections in the genitals, rectum, and throat. It is commonly found in young people ages 15-24 years.

## What are symptoms that could occur?

- Men: burning sensation when urinating, white/yellow/green discharge from penis, or painful/swollen testicles (less common)
- Women: painful or burning sensation when urinating, increased vaginal discharge, or vaginal bleeding between periods
- Rectal (men and women): discharge, anal itching, soreness, bleeding, or painful bowel movements
- Some men and women do not have any symptoms

## How is it spread?

- By having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has gonorrhea
- If you have had it in the past and were treated, you can still get infected again
- A pregnant women with gonorrhea can give the infection to her baby during childbirth

## 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 gonorrhea 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, if left untreated can cause pelvic inflammatory disease, formation of scar tissue that blocks fallopian tubes, ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy that occurs outside the womb), and infertility.

## 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