

# CHLAMYDIA

## What causes it?

Bacteria (chlamydia trachomatis).

## How do I get it?

- sexual contact: most often through body fluids in unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex
- infected mother can pass it to her newborn during birth, putting the baby at risk of eye or lung infection

## What are the symptoms?

- **about 70% of women and 50% of men who are infected don't have symptoms and so they don't know they are infected**

Some infected women may have:

- unusual discharge from the vagina
- burning feeling when peeing
- pain in the lower abdomen, sometimes with fever and chills
- pain during sexual activities
- unusual bleeding between periods or after sex
- swelling in the groin

Some infected men may have:

- watery or milky discharge from the penis
- burning or itching around the opening of the penis
- frequent peeing with a burning feeling
- pain or swelling in the testicles or groin

## How do you test for it?

Women: swab from the cervix; urine test if the woman has had a hysterectomy.

Men: urine test.

## What treatment is available?

- Chlamydia can be cured with the antibiotics prescribed by your doctor or nurse. Take all the medication you are prescribed.
- your health care provider will advise you about informing anyone you had sex with in the past 3 months or your last sex partner so that they can get tested and, if need be, treated. Do not have unprotected sex with an untreated partner or you could get Chlamydia again
- ask your health care provider when it's safe to start having sex again
- follow good personal hygiene and hand washing to avoid infecting other parts of your body like your eyes

## What complications can happen?

Women:

- the untreated infection can spread to your reproductive organs and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)
- PID can damage the fallopian tubes and cause infertility (inability to have children) or ectopic pregnancy (fetus grows in fallopian tube instead of the uterus)
- there may be a lingering pain in the abdomen or belly

Men:

- infection may spread to the coiled tube attached to the testicle (epididymis) which can cause pain, fever, and even make you unable to have children (sterile)

## Where can I get tested?

You can get tested at:

- YCDC (Yukon Communicable Disease Control)  
#4 Hospital Road  
667-8323 or 1-800-661-0408 ext. 8323
- Community Health Centre
- [Medical Clinics](#)

## What else do I need to know?

***Chlamydia is the most commonly reported STI in the Yukon, with the highest infection rates among teens and young adults 15 to 24 years of age.***