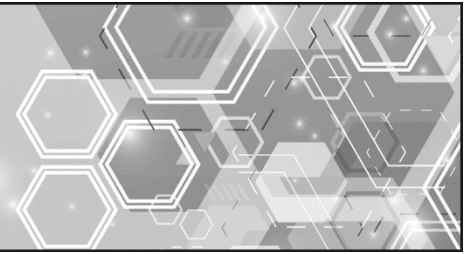




## Durham Region Health Department **Facts about...**



# **Gonorrhoea**

## **What is it?**

Gonorrhoea (GC) is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by bacteria. Many people have no symptoms and are not aware they have this infection. GC can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), a serious infection of the uterus and fallopian tubes, or lead to other health problems and infertility. GC can also cause infection of the eyes, throat, rectum, joints, and blood.

**GC is a reportable infection and must be reported to the Health Department.**

## **How is it spread?**

GC is spread by direct contact with sexual fluids of an infected person through oral, vaginal, or anal sex. GC can be passed to a newborn at the time of birth. It is important to tell all sexual partners within the past 60 days that you are infected. They will need to be tested and, if necessary, receive treatment. If you prefer, a nurse from the Health Department can contact your partner(s). All information including your name will be kept confidential.

## **What do I look for?**

Males may feel a burning or itching sensation when passing urine. They may also have discharge from the penis.

Females often have no symptoms, however, may have pain while passing urine, abnormal vaginal discharge, vaginal irritation, pelvic pain, or abnormal vaginal bleeding.

## **How do you test for it?**

A urine sample and/or swab of the vagina, cervix, penis, throat, or rectum may be collected.

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If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



## How is it treated?

GC is treated with antibiotics. It is important antibiotics are taken as prescribed, even if you no longer have symptoms, if not, the infection may not be cured. Inform your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding to ensure the medication is safe.

## How can I protect myself?

- Practice safe sex and always use a condom with lubricant when having oral, vaginal, or anal sex.
- Take antibiotics as directed until finished.
- You can have sex again 7 days after you and your partner(s) have finished treatment and no longer have symptoms.
- It is recommended that you return to your health care provider 6 months after treatment for a repeat test.

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