

STI REVIEW ANSWER KEY

Infections	What is it? Bacteria/Virus/ Parasite	How Is It Spread?	What are the Symptoms in Male?	What are the Symptoms in Female?	How is it tested and treated? How do I prevent it?
<p>Chlamydia</p>	<p>Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection caused by bacteria. Chlamydia can also cause infection of the eyes, throat, joints and bloodstream.</p> <p>Chlamydia is a reportable infection.</p>	<p>Chlamydia is spread by direct contact with sexual fluids of an infected person, through anal, oral or vaginal intercourse. A female with chlamydia can pass the infection on to her newborn at the time of delivery.</p>	<p>Many males experience no symptoms</p> <p>Often times there are no symptoms in men and women, however, males may experience a burning sensation during urination, discharge from the penis, and tenderness of the testicles.</p> <p>In males, chlamydia can cause difficulty passing urine and lead to sterility.</p>	<p>Many females experience no symptoms</p> <p>Symptoms in females may include a burning sensation during urination, vaginal discharge, lower abdominal pain and abnormal vaginal bleeding</p> <p>In females, chlamydia can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), a serious infection of the uterus and fallopian tubes. PID increases the risk of ectopic or tubal pregnancy and can lead to infertility</p>	<p>A urine sample can be sent to the lab to test for chlamydia. A swab from the penis, cervix, throat, or rectum may also be taken.</p> <p>Chlamydia is treated with antibiotics. It is important that the antibiotics are taken as directed otherwise the infection may not be cured.</p> <p>There is no effect on breastfeeding with this treatment.</p> <p>Treatment must be completed as prescribed even if you no longer have symptoms.</p> <p>Avoid drinking alcohol while being treated with antibiotics.</p> <p>Use condoms with lubricant (especially for oral, anal and vaginal sex) to lower the chance of infections in the future.</p> <p>Tell all previous sexual partners within the time frame indicated by your doctor/health care provider that you have chlamydia. They should be seen by their health care provider and, if needed, treated. A nurse from the Health Department will ask to contact your partner(s) to provide health education.</p>

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Gonorrhea	<p>Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted bacterial infection.</p> <p>Gonorrhea is a reportable infection.</p>	<p>Gonorrhea is spread by direct contact with sexual fluids of an infected person, i.e., through anal, oral or vaginal intercourse.</p> <p>A female with gonorrhea can pass the infection to her newborn at the time of delivery.</p> <p>Gonorrhea can be spread to other sex partners as soon as you become infected.</p> <p>It is important to tell all sexual partners within the past 60 days that you are infected. They will need to be tested and treated if necessary.</p>	<p>Males may feel a burning or itching sensation when passing urine. They may also have discharge from the penis.</p> <p>In males, gonorrhea can cause difficulty passing urine and lead to sterility.</p> <p>Gonorrhea can also cause infection of the eyes, throat, joints and bloodstream.</p>	<p>Females often have no symptoms, however, may have vaginal discharge or irritation, abnormal vaginal bleeding, or pain when passing urine</p> <p>In females, gonorrhea can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), a serious infection of the uterus and fallopian tubes. PID increases the risk of an ectopic or tubal pregnancy and can lead to infertility.</p> <p>Gonorrhea can also cause infection of the eyes, throat, joints and bloodstream.</p>	<p>A urine sample can be sent to the lab to test for gonorrhea. A swab from the penis, cervix, throat, or rectum may also be taken</p> <p>Gonorrhea is treated with antibiotics. It is important that the antibiotics are taken as directed otherwise the infection may not be cured.</p> <p>There is no effect on breastfeeding with this treatment.</p> <p>Treatment must be completed as prescribed even if you no longer have any symptoms.</p> <p>Avoid drinking alcohol while being treated with antibiotics.</p> <p>Use condoms with lubricant (especially for oral, anal and vaginal sex) to lower the chance of infections in the future.</p> <p>Tell all previous sexual partners within the time frame indicated by your doctor/health care provider that you have Gonorrhea. They should be seen by their health care provider and, if needed, treated. A nurse from the Health Department will ask to contact your partner(s) to provide health education.</p>

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Herpes Simplex (Genital Herpes)	Herpes is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by herpes simplex viruses type 1 (HSV-1) or type 2 (HSV-2). An infected person stays infected for life and may have several recurrences.	The virus is spread through sexual contact, including oral, vaginal, and/or anal sex . You can pass on the virus when you have sores or blisters on your mouth or genitals that are easy to see. You can also pass on the infection without having any visible symptoms .	Symptoms are the same for males and females and can include: Itching or tingling on your skin Painful blisters on the mouth, genitals, buttocks, anus, and thighs that turn into sores Fever Joint pain Flu-like signs Swollen and tender lymph nodes in the groin area Very painful sores that can take 2 to 3 weeks to heal Pain during urination New blisters may develop for up to 5 to 7 days after the first group appears. Also they often come back weeks to months later since the virus remains for life. When blisters do come back, they are usually less painful and heal faster. They may develop in the same area as before, or in another area. When sores are present, there is an increased risk of being infected with other STIs	Same as Male	There is no treatment that can cure genital herpes. Medicines called anti-virals can be taken to prevent or shorten recurrences. The sores should be kept clean and dry. Soaking in a shallow tub of salty water may help. Cotton underwear should be used, as cotton does not hold moisture and will speed up the healing process. After touching the sores, it is important to wash your hands to avoid spread to other parts of the body.

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HPV (Genital Warts)	Genital warts are caused by a virus called human papillomavirus (HPV) . They look like common skin warts, and may appear on the vagina, cervix, and penis and around the anus.	<p>HPV is spread easily through skin to skin contact with the penis, scrotum, vagina, vulva, or anus of someone who has the virus.</p> <p>Kissing or touching partner's genitals with the mouth can also transmit the HPV virus.</p> <p>HPV is a very common virus and about 4 out of 5 people who have sex will be exposed to HPV at some time.</p>	<p>Most people will become infected with HPV at some point in their lives</p> <p>Many people who have been infected do not have any symptoms but they still carry the virus and can infect their sexual partner(s).</p> <p>Genital warts usually appear two weeks to eight months after contact.</p> <p>Genital warts caused by HPV are usually painless but may be itchy and uncomfortable.</p> <p>Some look like tiny cauliflower. Others, less commonly are brown, grey or bluish</p> <p>In females, pap tests detect changes on the cervix caused by an HPV infection that may lead to cervical cancer later in life</p>	Same as Male	<p>Your doctor can use a number of treatments such as skin medications, freezing and laser therapy.</p> <p>Treatments will remove the warts but do not remove the virus from your body.</p> <p>Warts can come back since there is no cure for HPV.</p> <p>Keep the infected area dry. Wear only cotton underclothes. Avoid synthetic materials such as nylon.</p> <p>All sexual partner(s) should be examined and treated if necessary. Even after treatment, there is a potential for warts to recur. Genital warts are usually harmless, but they can be stubborn to treat.</p>

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<p>Hepatitis B</p>	<p>Hepatitis B is a virus. The virus can attack and damage the liver.</p> <p>While most people will develop immunity months later, 5-10% of adults infected with hepatitis B will become life-long carriers and can be infectious to others.</p> <p>Some hepatitis B carriers may develop chronic (life-long) liver disease and are at risk for liver scarring (called cirrhosis) and liver cancer.</p> <p>Hepatitis B is a reportable infection.</p>	<p>People who have acute hepatitis B infection or who are hepatitis B carriers can spread the infection.</p> <p>In Canada, sexual contact without using a condom (especially oral, anal and vaginal sex) is the most common way of being infected.</p> <p>Hepatitis B can be spread through blood, blood products, saliva, semen, vaginal fluid and other fluid containing blood.</p> <p>By sharing needles (e.g., injecting drugs, tattooing, body piercing) or personal items (e.g., toothbrushes, razors, manicure tools) with an infected person.</p> <p>Hepatitis B can be spread to sexual partner(s), those who live in close contact with an infected person and those who share needles for injecting drugs.</p>	<p>Half of the people who become infected with the hepatitis B virus will develop symptoms within 60-90 days. However, 50-70% of infected people may not know that they have been infected with the virus unless a blood test is taken.</p> <p>Symptoms usually come on slowly with loss of appetite, stomach discomfort, feeling very tired, joint pain, fever and jaundice (where skin and whites of eyes turn yellow and urine darkens)</p> <p>When present, symptoms often start in 2-3 months but can start as late as 9 months after being infected. While most adults recover fully, death from acute hepatitis B can occur.</p>	<p>Same as Male</p>	<p>Blood tests confirm hepatitis B infections.</p> <p>Treatment is available for some people.</p> <p>Anybody with chronic hepatitis B should be referred to a specialist for follow up.</p> <p>Hepatitis B is best prevented by immunization.</p> <p>Always practice safer sex and use latex condoms.</p> <p>Avoid sharing personal hygiene items (e.g., razors, toothbrushes, nail clippers)</p> <p>Investigate personal service settings and make sure you go to a technician who uses new and/or sterile equipment for each customer.</p> <p>Do not share needles or drug injection equipment.</p> <p>Tell all previous sexual partners within the time frame indicated by your doctor/health care provider that you have hepatitis B. They should be seen by their health care provider and, if needed, treated. A nurse from the Health Department will ask to contact your partner(s) to provide health education.</p>

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<p>Hepatitis C</p>	<p>Hepatitis C is a virus which is carried in the blood and attacks the liver.</p> <p>Hepatitis C is a reportable infection.</p>	<p>Hepatitis C is common worldwide and is spread when the blood of an infected person gets into the bloodstream of another person. You may be at risk of hepatitis C:</p> <p>The virus can spread through injection drug use or shared drug-related equipment</p> <p>If you have had a tattoo or body piercing with non-sterile equipment</p> <p>If you were born or lived in countries where hepatitis C is common</p> <p>If you received a blood transfusion or organ transplant prior to 1990 (since 1990, all blood donations in Canada have been screened for the virus).</p> <p>The risk of spreading through sexual contact is low. Still, people who have many sex partners are at increased risk of being infected with hepatitis C.</p>	<p>Hepatitis C is known as a “silent killer” as most people infected have no symptoms until the damage has already been done to their liver.</p> <p>Hepatitis C is a leading cause of cirrhosis, liver cancer and liver transplants.</p> <p>Most commonly reported symptoms are lack of appetite, feeling tired, nausea, abdominal pain or jaundice (yellowing of the eyes and skin).</p>	<p>Same as Male</p>	<p>To determine whether or not you have hepatitis C, you will need to have a blood test.</p> <p>Early diagnosis can prevent health problems that may result from infection. The earlier a person is diagnosed and has had follow-up medical care, the less chance of spreading hepatitis C to others.</p> <p>People with hepatitis C should speak with their doctor/health care provider to determine if treatment is an option.</p> <p>Tell all previous sexual partners within the time frame indicated by your doctor/health care provider that you have hepatitis C. They should be seen by their health care provider and, if needed, treated. A nurse from the Health Department will ask to contact your partner(s) to provide health education.</p>

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<p>HIV & AIDS</p>	<p>AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is a disease of the immune system caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which slowly destroys the body's ability to fight illnesses.</p> <p>By weakening the immune system, HIV causes other infections and diseases to attack the body.</p> <p>HIV is a reportable infection.</p>	<p>HIV is found in the blood, semen, menstrual blood, vaginal secretions and breast milk of an infected person.</p> <p>Although the virus is also present in saliva and tears, scientists have found no evidence that the virus is spread through these fluids.</p> <p>The only way to become infected with HIV is to get the virus into your blood.</p> <p>HIV is spread by sexual contact with an infected partner.</p> <p>The virus can enter the bloodstream through open lesions on the vagina, vulva, penis, rectum, or mouth.</p> <p>HIV is also spread by sharing contaminated needles and syringes and through the use of non-sterile instruments that enter the body (e.g., tattooing or skin piercing equipment).</p> <p>A woman infected with HIV/AIDS can pass the virus on to her baby during pregnancy, during birth, and through breast-feeding.</p>	<p>Most people feel well when they first become infected with HIV. Some people, however, develop a flu-like illness within a month after becoming infected with the virus.</p> <p>Symptoms may include fever, headache, tiredness, sore throat, oral or genital ulcers, vomiting and diarrhea, and enlarged lymph nodes.</p> <p>Symptoms usually disappear within a week to a month and are often similar to those of other viral infections. Persistent and severe symptoms may not occur for years. They can include weight loss, skin lesions or sores, vision loss, recurrent pneumonia, forms of cancer and damage to the nervous system.</p> <p>For women, recurrent yeast infections and abnormalities on pap tests can occur. These illnesses signal the onset of AIDS</p>	<p>Same as Male.</p>	<p>HIV is diagnosed by a blood test that can be anonymous if requested.</p> <p>HIV/AIDS is treated with medications to delay the spread of the virus in the body and to manage potential and existing infections and cancers associated with the disease. To date there is no cure available.</p> <p>If you are pregnant, ask your health care provider for prenatal screening of HIV.</p>

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<p>Syphilis</p>	<p>Syphilis is a serious bacterial STI.</p> <p>Syphilis is a reportable infection.</p>	<p>Syphilis is spread by direct contact with the sores, rash or body fluids (saliva, semen, blood, vaginal secretions) of an infected person.</p> <p>Sexually, it is spread by having genital, anal, or oral sex with an infected person.</p> <p>Pregnant women with syphilis can give the disease to their unborn children.</p> <p>Syphilis can also cause birth defects. Doctors usually do a syphilis test on every pregnant woman at their first prenatal visit.</p>	<p>The first sign is a painless sore (chancre/lesion) where the bacteria entered the body. Many people, especially women, do not notice the sore so don't even know that they have been infected.</p> <p>The second stage is a body rash, which may appear weeks later. Not everyone will get the rash.</p> <p>Syphilis symptoms often go away in 6 months even with no treatment. But the bacteria can still damage your body and you are still able to spread the disease through sexual contact</p> <p>Years later syphilis can enter its third stage, causing heart disease, brain damage or death.</p>	<p>Same as Male.</p>	<p>Syphilis is treated with antibiotics, usually penicillin. The course of treatment depends on the stage of infection.</p> <p>Penicillin is given by an injection into the muscle. A one-time injection or a weekly injection over a period of 3 weeks is required depending on the stage of the infection, determined by your physician or health care provider.</p> <p>It is very important to complete treatment exactly as prescribed.</p>

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Molluscum Contagiosum	Molluscum contagiosum is a skin infection that is caused by a virus in the poxvirus family.	Molluscum contagiosum can be spread from person to person. This can happen if the virus on one person is touched by another person. It can also happen if the virus gets on an object that is touched by other people. Molluscum can be sexually transmitted.	Molluscum contagiosum appears as a small lesion (2-5 mm in diameter) with a dimple in the center; initially firm, flesh-coloured or pink, and pearl or dome-shaped. After the lesion has been present for a period of time, it may soften and turn gray. At this stage, the centre of the lesion usually appears as a white, cheesy or waxy material which may drain out. There may be one or many lesions which are not painful. If the virus is sexually transmitted, the lesions are usually found on the abdomen, groin, external genitals, buttocks or inner thighs.	Same as Male.	Healthy people are usually able to fight the virus and lesions usually disappear over a period of 6-12 months with no treatment. In those with a weakened immune system, the lesions may be extensive. Molluscum contagiosum can be treated by targeting the lesions when they appear. This may be done surgically or using the same methods that are typically used to treat warts

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<p>Pubic Lice (Crabs)</p>	<p>An infection caused by a parasite.</p> <p>Pubic lice (crabs) are usually found on pubic hair but sometimes move to the hair on other parts of the body, such as the head, chest, armpits, eyelashes, beards, and mustaches</p>	<p>Pubic lice live by feeding on human blood. They are small, but can be seen and are easily recognized. Pubic lice are usually spread through sexual contact and are most common in adults.</p> <p>They may be spread by close personal contact or contact with clothing, bed linens, or towels that have been used by an infected person.</p>	<p>The first symptom of crabs is usually itching in the genital or anal area.</p> <p>Scratching the affected areas can cause skin irritation and inflammation. You may be able to see the crabs or eggs. Small blue spots can appear on the skin where the crab has bitten</p>	<p>Same as Male.</p>	<p>Non-prescription shampoo can be purchased at a pharmacy.</p> <p>Use the treatment as directed. Some treatments should not be given to women who are pregnant or breast feeding.</p> <p>Treatment for eyelashes should be with an eye ointment only.</p> <p>In hot water (54.4 °C), wash all clothing, towels, and bedding used in the last couple of days before treatment. The heat of the water or a hot drying cycle will kill the pubic lice and eggs. Vacuum bed mattresses. All sexual partners who have had contact with an infected person in the month before diagnosis should be tested and treated.</p> <p>The best way to protect against pubic lice is to limit the number of sexual partners. It is important that all sexual partners are treated before having sex.</p>

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<p>Trichomoniasis (Trich)</p>	<p>A common sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a parasite.</p> <p>When pregnant, trichomoniasis may cause early rupture of membranes. The baby may be born too early and have a low birth weight.</p>	<p>Trichomoniasis is spread by:</p> <p>Having unprotected sex with a person who has it.</p> <p>Being treated for it and not finishing your pills.</p> <p>Having sex the week you are being treated.</p> <p>Having sex with your partner(s) who is not being treated at the same time as you are.</p> <p>A common myth is that it can be spread on toilet seats. The parasite cannot live long in the environment or on objects, so it is unlikely you would get “trich” this way.</p>	<p>Most men have no symptoms.</p> <p>Abnormal discharge from the penis.</p> <p>Itching or an abnormal feeling inside the penis.</p> <p>Burning after urinating or ejaculating.</p>	<p>Most women have no symptoms.</p> <p>Itching or redness of the vagina.</p> <p>Changes in colour of vaginal discharge (white, clear, yellow or green).</p> <p>Vaginal discharge with a smell that is not normal for the woman.</p> <p>Burning feeling when having sex and when urinating.</p>	<p>Trichomoniasis is treated by a health care provider with prescription pills, usually metronidazole (Flagyl).</p> <p>It is important to take all the pills that are given to you.</p> <p>Even if you no longer have symptoms, you must finish all the pills or the infection may not go away.</p> <p>Breast feeding women should be advised to consider interrupting breast feeding for 12-24 hours following treatment with metronidazole. This medication is excreted into breast milk in large amounts (up to 20%). There have been no reports of the effects on breast fed infants of mothers who took metronidazole.</p> <p>Avoid drinking alcoholic drinks during, and for 24 hours after pills are finished, because they it can cause extreme vomiting</p> <p>Tell every partner(s) you have recently had sex with, that they may be infected and should be tested and if needed, treated.</p>