



Huron County Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Gonorrhea

What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease caused by bacteria. It can infect the cervix, uterus or fallopian tubes in women; and the urethra in men or women. The bacteria can also grow in the mouth, throat, eyes and anus.

How do you get Gonorrhea?

You can get gonorrhea by having sex with someone who has it. Gonorrhea can be transmitted through vaginal, anal or oral sex. A man does not have to ejaculate during sex to spread gonorrhea.

Babies can get gonorrhea during child birth if their mother is infected.



How common is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a very common infection. The CDC estimates that 700,000 Americans get gonorrhea every year. Any person who is sexually active can get gonorrhea. Teenagers, young adults and African Americans have the highest reported rates of gonorrhea.

What are the symptoms of Gonorrhea for men?

- Burning sensation when urinating
- White, yellow or green discharge from the penis that usually appears 1 to 14 days after infection
- Painful or swollen testicles
- Some men experience no symptoms

What are the symptoms of Gonorrhea for women?

Most women experience no symptoms but mild symptoms may occur such as:

- Painful or burning sensation when urinating
- Increased vaginal discharge
- Bleeding between periods



What are the symptoms of a throat or rectal Gonorrhea infection?

Symptoms of a rectal infection in men and women can include discharge, anal itching, soreness, bleeding and painful bowel movements. Infections in the throat can cause a sore throat. Both rectal and throat infections may not show any symptoms at all.

What are the complications of Gonorrhea for women?

Gonorrhea can spread to the uterus and fallopian tubes and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID can cause long term damage to the reproductive system and make a woman unable to have children.

What are the complications of Gonorrhea for men?

Gonorrhea can cause a condition in men called epididymitis. This condition occurs in the tubes attached to the testicles and can be very painful. In some cases, epididymitis can make a man unable to have children.

How is Gonorrhea diagnosed?

A urine test is usually used to test for gonorrhea. If the sexual contact was through oral or anal sex, a swab sample may be taken from the throat or rectum.



What is the treatment for Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea can be treated with prescription medication. Medication will cure the infection but it will not repair any damage done to the reproductive organs. People should not have sex again until all medication has been taken to prevent a re-infection. All sexual partners should be tested and treated.

How can Gonorrhea be prevented?

Latex condoms reduce the risk of spreading gonorrhea when used correctly and consistently.

For more information?

Call Huron County Public Health at (419) 668-1652. Additional information is also available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea.