

## Chlamydia

### What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is the most frequently reported bacterial sexually transmitted disease in the United States. It is caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis* and can cause infertility and damage to a woman's reproductive organs.

### How is Chlamydia spread?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease that can be spread during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Any sexually active person can get chlamydia. Teenage and young adult women are more susceptible to chlamydia. Having multiple sexual partners increases the risk for chlamydia. Chlamydia can also be spread from an infected mother to her baby during vaginal childbirth.

### How can Chlamydia be prevented?

The only way to completely avoid STDs is to not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex.

If you are sexually active, the following things can lower your chances of getting chlamydia:

- Being in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and does not have chlamydia; and
- Using condoms the right way every time you have sex.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends yearly testing for all sexually active women under age 25, older women with multiple or new sexual partners, and all pregnant women.

### What are the symptoms of Chlamydia?

Chlamydia often has no symptoms, but it can cause serious health problems, even without symptoms. If symptoms occur, they may not appear until several weeks after having sex with a partner who has chlamydia.

Even when chlamydia has no symptoms, it can damage a woman's reproductive system. Women with symptoms may notice:

- An abnormal vaginal discharge; and
- A burning sensation when peeing.

Symptoms in men can include:

- A discharge from their penis;
- A burning sensation when peeing; and
- Pain and swelling in one or both testicles (although this is less common).

### How is Chlamydia diagnosed?

Laboratory tests can diagnose chlamydia. Your healthcare provider may ask you to provide a urine sample for testing, or they might use (or ask you to use) a cotton swab to get a vaginal sample.

# Huron County Public Health

## What is the treatment for Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is treated and cured with antibiotics. The most commonly used treatments are azithromycin and doxycycline. All sexual partners of an infected person should also be tested and treated if positive.

Persons with chlamydia should not have sexual intercourse for 7 days after treatment or follow the specific advice of their physician. Repeat infection with chlamydia is common. You should receive testing again about three months after your treatment, even if your sex partner(s) receives treatment.

## What happens if Chlamydia is not treated?

### For Women

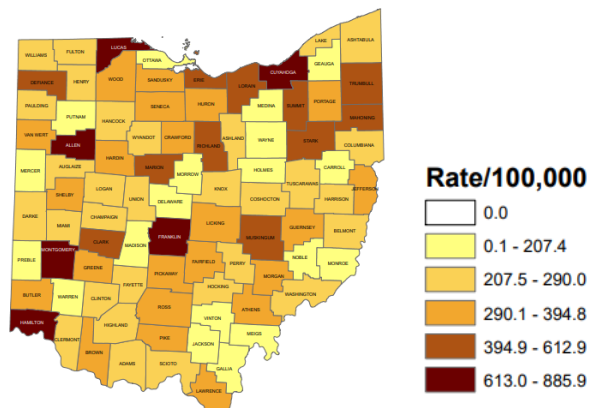
- Untreated chlamydia can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). Some of the complications of PID are:
  - Scar tissue that blocks the fallopian tubes
  - Ectopic pregnancy
  - Infertility
  - Long-term pelvic/abdominal pain
- If you are pregnant and have chlamydia, you can give the infection to your baby during delivery and/or you may be more likely to deliver your baby early.

### For Men

- Men rarely have health problems from chlamydia. The infection can cause a fever and pain in the tubes attached to the testicles. This can, in rare cases, lead to infertility.

## Rates of Chlamydia in Ohio by county:

The Ohio Department of Health tracks chlamydia rates in each county per every 100,000 people. Below are the results as of 2020.



## For more information:

Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/stdfact-chlamydia.htm> or call Huron County Public Health at 419-668-1652 ext. 269.