



LENAWEE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Gonorrhea

1040 S. Winter St. Suite 2328

Adrian, MI 49221

Phone: (517) 264-5226

Fax: (517) 264-0790

www.lenawehealthdepartment.org

What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) that can infect men and women. Gonorrhea can cause very serious complications when not treated, but can be cured with the right medication. It can be tested through urine, anal, vaginal, and a throat swabs at the Lenawee County Health Department.

How is Gonorrhea Spread?

Gonorrhea is spread by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who is already infected. Gonorrhea can be spread by a male or female partner, and can also be passed to a baby during childbirth. You can be re-infected with gonorrhea after you have already had it, even if it was treated.

Symptoms of Gonorrhea

Many people who have gonorrhea do not have any symptoms. Symptoms may appear several weeks after having a sexual encounter with an infected partner.

Symptoms for Females:

- Increased vaginal discharge
- A burning sensation when urinating
- Vaginal bleeding between periods

*These symptoms may be mild and mistaken for bladder or vaginal infections.

Symptoms for Males:

- White, yellow, or green discharge from the penis
- A burning sensation when urinating
- Pain or swelling in one or both testicles

*In men, gonorrhea can cause a painful condition in the tubes attached to the testicles.

Rectal symptoms for men and women:

- Pain, soreness, or itching
- Discharge
- Bleeding
- Painful bowel movements

Reducing the Risk

- Communication with partner(s)
- Use a condom or dental dam with every sex partner
- Don't share sex toys and wash them thoroughly after every use
- Having one STI increases your risk for getting other STIs

Treating Gonorrhea:

- Ceftriaxone is the most commonly used antibiotic to treat gonorrhea
- Reinfections are common, so get tested again 3 months after finishing treatment

* If the infection is not treated, it can lead to PID (pelvic inflammatory disease) which causes abdominal and pelvic pain in women. This can cause long-term pain, inability to have a baby, or an ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy outside the uterus).

This FACT SHEET is for information only and is not meant to be used for self-diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information call your health care provider or call the Lenawee County Health Department (517) 264-5226