

STI	Organism	How it's passed	Common symptoms	When symptoms show up	When to test	Tests	Treatment
Bacterial Vaginosis (BV)	Bacteria	Imbalance of normal bacteria (not an STI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong vaginal odour More vaginal discharge Vaginal irritation 	Not applicable	Varies	Swab	Cured with antibiotics
Chlamydia (CT)	Bacteria	Semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discharge from the vagina, penis or anus Burning when urinating Often there are no symptoms 	2–3 weeks up to 6 weeks (but often no symptoms)	Most results accurate after 2 weeks	Urine or swab	Cured with antibiotics
Genital Warts/ Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	Virus	Skin-to-skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Painless bumps around genitals or buttocks Often there are no symptoms 	1–8 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HPV testing is not available in BC Pap tests find cell changes caused by some types of HPV 	Visual exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visible warts may be treated More than 80% of HPV infections will clear on their own in 24 months Immunization with HPV vaccine prevents some strains of HPV
Gonorrhea (GC)	Bacteria	Semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discharge from the vagina, penis or anus Burning when urinating Women often do not notice symptoms Men may notice symptoms when gonorrhea is in the penis, but not when it is in the throat or rectum 	2–7 days (but often no symptoms)	Most results accurate after 7 days	Urine or swab	Cured with antibiotics
Hepatitis A (HAV)	Virus	Fecal-oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, jaundice, fatigue, dark urine, clay-coloured stool 70% of adults have symptoms 	15–50 days (average 4 weeks)	4 weeks	Blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No treatment—virus clears from the body Immunization with Hepatitis A vaccine prevents infection
Hepatitis B (HBV)	Virus	Blood, semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, jaundice, dark urine, clay-coloured stool 30–50% of adults have symptoms 	45–160 days (average 90 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30–60 days after infection Most results accurate after 4 weeks 	Blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virus may stay in the body or clear on its own Immunization with Hepatitis B vaccine prevents infection
Hepatitis C (HCV)	Virus	Blood, body fluids containing blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, jaundice, abdominal pain, dark urine, clay-coloured stool 20–30% of adults have symptoms 	2–26 weeks (average 6–7 weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6–10 weeks Most acute HCV infections will be detectable within 2 weeks 	Blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virus may stay in the body or clear on its own Treatment can cure about 70% of those treated
Herpes simplex virus (HSV)	Virus	Skin-to-skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Painful blisters on genitals, mouth and face 60% of people do not notice symptoms 	2–21 days (average 6 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swab from lesion: 2–12 days (average 6 days) Blood test: 70% of results accurate after 3 months 	Swab, blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virus stays in the body Managed with anti-viral medication if needed
Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV)	Virus	Blood, semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids, breast milk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flu-like illness, swollen lymph nodes, skin rash Many people do not notice symptoms 	2–4 weeks if seroconverting	95% of tests are accurate after 6 weeks but it can take up to 3 months for final result	Blood	Virus stays in the body, but can be managed with medication
Molluscum Contagiosum	Virus	Skin-to-skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small, firm, painless pink or white bumps on the skin 	1 week–6 months	Not applicable	Visual exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes treated with topical medication Clears from the body with time
Pubic lice	Parasite	Close contact, sharing clothes, bedding, towels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genital itching Visible lice in and around pubic hair 	2 days–3 weeks	Not applicable	Visual exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cured with lotion or cream rinse applied to the skin Wash all clothes and bedding in hot water or dry clean; vacuum mattresses
Scabies	Parasite	Skin-to-skin contact, sharing clothes, bedding or towels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Itchiness (especially at night) Rash between fingers, on wrists, armpits, genitals, thighs 	3 weeks, though symptoms may begin as soon as 1–3 days	Not applicable	Visual exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cured with lotion or cream applied to the body below the neck Wash all clothes and bedding in hot water or dry clean; vacuum mattresses
Syphilis	Bacteria	Skin-to-skin contact, fluids from a syphilis lesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many people do not notice symptoms 	3 days–3 months	3–4 weeks	Blood	Cured with antibiotics
Trichomoniasis	Parasite	Semen, vaginal fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaginal discharge Painful or burning urination Painful sex 	4–28 days	4–28 days	Swab	Cured with antibiotics
Yeast	Fungus	Imbalance of normal bacteria (not an STI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genital area is itchy, red, sore and dry Painful sex Whitish, thick vaginal discharge 	Not applicable	Not applicable	Swab	Treated with creams or oral medication