



# CHLAMYDIA

## FACT SHEET

### Chlamydia...

- ...is transmitted by oral, anal, or vaginal sex with an infected person.
- ...may not have symptoms.
- ...often keeps person from having children later if it is not treated.
- ...can be cured with antibiotics, but a person can get it again if he or she has sex with an infected person.



### What is it?

- Chlamydia infection is caused by bacteria.
- Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S.

### How is it transmitted?

- Chlamydia is transmitted by having vaginal, oral, or anal sex with an infected person.
- An infected mother can pass it to her baby during birth.

### What are symptoms of infection?

- Eighty percent of women and half of infected men have no symptoms with chlamydial infection.
- Women can have symptoms, such as discharge from the vagina, bleeding between periods, pain in the abdomen, or pain with urination.
- Men can have symptoms, such as burning or pain with urination, watery drip from the penis, or pain in the testicles.

### What are other consequences of infection?

- The infection can spread and cause permanent and painful damage to the reproductive and urinary organs.
- Chlamydia is a leading cause of infection of the Fallopian tubes that can make women infertile.
- Chlamydia is a major cause of infection of the urethra that can make men infertile.
- A woman can pass chlamydia to her baby during birth. These babies may have eye problems or pneumonia, and could possibly die.

### How is it diagnosed?

- Local health departments, school-based health clinics, and other doctor's offices may offer confidential, free or low-cost testing and treatment for chlamydia for young people.
- The only way for a person to be sure if he or she has chlamydia is to visit a doctor or nurse and ask to be tested for chlamydia. They will do a urine test or a pelvic exam for women and a visual examination of the genitalia for men. Also, discharge from the penis or vagina will be tested.

### Is there a treatment? A cure?

- Chlamydia can be cured with antibiotics prescribed by a doctor or nurse.
- The sex partner of an infected person must also be treated. If not, they will pass it to each other again if they have sex.
- A person is not immune from chlamydia after having it and being cured. A person can get it again.

### How can it be avoided?

- Abstain from vaginal, oral, and anal sex.