

The DC Health and Wellness Center

Questions? Want to get tested?

Call us to make an appointment or walk in and see us



Sexual health services for everyone in DC

The DC Health and Wellness Center provides confidential, comprehensive sexual health services to everyone who lives, works, or plays in DC.

Services are provided at low or no cost. These include: sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing, diagnosis, and treatment; PrEP; PEP; contraception; vaccines; rapid ART (HIV treatment); and mental health counseling.



202-741-7692



dchealthandwellness.org



77 P Street NE
Washington, DC 20002



Clinic Hours:
Mon Tue Wed & Fri: 9:00am-3:00pm
Thurs: 9:00am-11:30am only

Chlamydia

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that is caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis* bacteria. You can get chlamydia from vaginal, anal, or oral sex. It can be passed from mother to baby at birth. Teenagers and young adults have more chlamydia infections than other people. Most people who have chlamydia do not have symptoms and often do not know they have an infection.



Symptoms and Complications

Many people have no symptoms at all. That's why it's important to get tested regularly.

If you have symptoms, they may include:

- Discharge from the penis or rectum
- Pain or burning when urinating
- Pain and swelling in the testicles
- Itching in the tip of the penis
- Pain and itching in the vagina or surrounding area (vulva)
- Discharge from the vagina
- Pain when having sex

If untreated, complications of chlamydia infection can include:

- Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), which can cause fever, lower abdominal pain, and bleeding between periods
- Ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy outside the womb)
- Infertility (inability to get pregnant)



Testing

Urine testing

- If you do not have symptoms, the clinician may ask you to collect urine in a cup to be sent to a laboratory.
- If you have symptoms, the clinician may also examine your urethra (where urine comes out) and may collect a sample with a swab for further testing.

Pelvic exam

- Your clinician may recommend that you receive a pelvic exam.
- During the pelvic exam, a medical tool called a speculum will be placed into the vagina. The clinician may use a swab to collect discharge for further testing.
- If you do not have symptoms and you decline a pelvic exam, the clinician may ask you to collect urine in a cup to be sent to a laboratory.



Treatment and Prevention

Chlamydia Treatment

- Antibiotics can cure chlamydia.
- Your clinician may prescribe doxycycline (for one week) or azithromycin (in a single dose). Be sure to take all of your antibiotics!
- Since symptoms of gonorrhea and chlamydia are similar, and both can occur at the same time, most people get treatment for both infections.

Prevention Tips

- Tell your partners to get tested. If your partners have chlamydia and don't get treated, they can pass the infection back to you, or on to someone else.
- Use condoms - they are very good at preventing chlamydia during all kinds of sex.
- Limit the number of sex partners you have.
- Get screened again three (3) months after treatment.