Chlamydia

Chlamydia is the most commonly reported bacterial STD in the United States

Signs and Symptoms

- *Many people do not have symptoms.*
- If symptoms occur, they usually appear 1-3 weeks after exposure
- Abnormal discharge from penis or vagina
- Burning or pain while peeing
- Irritation around anus
- Painful or swollen testicles
- Bleeding between menstrual periods
- Painful intercourse (women)
- Lower abdominal or back pain (women)

Transmission

- Oral, anal or vaginal sex
- Infected mother to baby at vaginal birth

Prevention

- Use condoms/barriers consistently and correctly for oral, anal or vaginal sex.
- Maintain a mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and/or treated for STDs.
- Get tested regularly and treated for STDs.
- Get an infected partner treated.
- Do not have sex with a partner who has chlamydia until 1week after they have completed treatment and no longer have symptoms.

Treatment

- See a health care provider for exam and tests to figure out the best treatment.
- Treatment is medicine (antibiotics) prescribed by a health care provider
- If pregnant, get a follow-up exam to make sure the treatment worked

If Not Treated

- Can increase risk for getting or spreading HIV
- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (women)
- Infertility (women)
- Ectopic (tubal) pregnancy
- Chronic pelvic pain
- During pregnancy:
  - Premature delivery
  - Low birth weight in newborns
  - Eye and respiratory tract infections in newborns

Help Stop the Spread of Chlamydia

- Refrain from oral, anal or vaginal sex if you have symptoms.
- Seek medical care, including STD tests.
- Do not have sex until 7days after you have completed treatment.
- Take all medicines prescribed, even if your symptoms are gone.
- Re-test in 3 months.
- Make sure sex partners get treated.
- Get yearly STD screens if sexually active.
- If you are pregnant, get tested for STDs and HIV.

Public Health
Seattle & King County

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