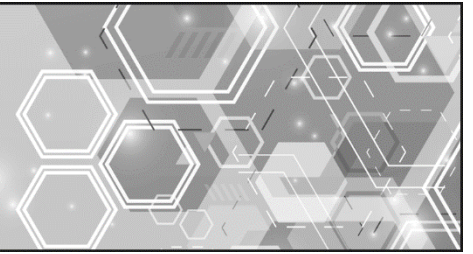




Durham Region Health Department **Facts about...**



Chlamydia

What is it?

Chlamydia (CT) is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by bacteria. Many people do not have symptoms and are not aware they have this infection. If left untreated CT can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in women, a serious infection of the uterus and fallopian tubes. PID can increase the risk of ectopic or tubal pregnancy and can cause infertility. In males, CT can make it hard to pass urine and can cause sterility. CT can also cause infection of the eyes, throat, rectum, joints, and blood.

CT can also cause a serious STI called lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV), which most often infects the lymph nodes in the genital area.

Chlamydia is a reportable infection and must be reported to the Health Department.

How is it spread?

CT is spread by direct contact with fluids of an infected person, through oral, vaginal, or anal sex. A woman with CT can pass the infection on to her newborn at the time of birth.

It is important to tell all sexual partners within the past 60 days that you have an infection. They will need to be tested and, if necessary, receive treatment. If you prefer, a nurse from the Health Department can contact your partner(s). All information including your name will be kept confidential.

What do I look for?

Often there are no symptoms in men and women. If symptoms appear, men may feel burning during urination, discharge from the penis, and pain in testicles. Symptoms in women may include a burning sensation during urination, abnormal vaginal discharge, lower abdominal pain, and abnormal vaginal bleeding.

Symptoms of LGV can appear 3 to 42 days after being infected. Symptoms range from small, painless sores on the skin of the vagina, penis, rectum, cervix, or mouth where the bacteria enter.

... over

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



How do you test for it?

A urine sample can be sent to the lab to test for CT. A swab from the penis, cervix, throat, or rectum may also be taken if needed.

Screening for LGV is completed based on laboratory findings or a healthcare provider's assessment.

How is it treated?

CT and LGV are treated with antibiotics. It is important that the antibiotics are taken as ordered, even if you no longer have symptoms, if not, the infection may not be cured. Inform your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding to ensure the medication is safe.

How can I protect myself?

- Practice safe sex and always use a condom with lubricant when having oral, vaginal, or anal sex.
- Take antibiotics as directed until finished.
- You can have sex again 7 days after you and your partner(s) have finished treatment and no longer have symptoms.
- It is recommended that you return to your health care provider 3 months after CT treatment for a repeat test. For LGV a Test of Cure should be completed 3-4 weeks after finishing antibiotics.

September 9, 2022

