



Guide to Gonorrhea

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This package was created by Healthy U: Peer Health & Wellness at the University of Manitoba. We are a group of trained, non-judgmental, and confidential student health and wellness leaders on campus.

We provide outreach activities, workshops, and one-on-one support for our fellow students on a variety of health and well-being topics. Feel free to drop in to chat or pick up more information packages.

If you would like to request or attend one of our workshops or events, check out our website for details.



What you need to know about Gonorrhea

What is it?

Gonorrhea is a common bacterial infection that is super easy to treat.

How do you get it?

Gonorrhea is transmitted through semen, pre-seminal fluid, and vaginal fluid. This means it can be contracted through oral, anal, or vaginal sex, or if any of these fluids contacts the genitalia.

What are the symptoms?

Sometimes gonorrhea has no symptoms or they are very mild. If you do have symptoms, you may experience pain or burning when you pee, yellow or bloody vaginal discharge, bleeding between periods, pain or swelling in testicles, and discharge from penis (may be yellow, green, or white). In men, symptoms are more common and often appear after a week of getting the infection.

Prevention

Condoms work very well against gonorrhea, but they are never a guarantee. Make sure both you and your partner are tested regularly.



Do you think you have Gonorrhea?

Getting tested

Usually you just need to give a urine sample, but the health care provider may also take a swab of any discharge, or possibly a cervical swab.

Treatment

Good news: Gonorrhea is curable if you take antibiotics! Make sure you take the full course even if you are feeling better, to make sure the infection doesn't come back. It is important to get treatment early, because having gonorrhea for a long time may lead to long-term complications.

What next?

If you've received treatment and antibiotics from your doctor, that's a great start. Make sure you contact previous partners (or have the clinic do this for you) to let them know they need to be tested.

The only way to be sure you won't pass the infection on is to not have sex until you've finished your antibiotic treatment. If you do have sex before your antibiotics are done, make sure your partner is aware and always use condoms.

