

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD's)*

Condoms can easily prevent most, but not all of these infections. A good idea is to get tested every 3 to 6 months, even though you have no symptoms.

Brandon says: GOOD IDEA: Getting tested for STD's.

BAD IDEA: Having the hottest guy you've met in a month, tell you that you have an STD!

< NEW STD WARNING ADDED HERE > WITH LINKS

STD stands for SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES. STI means SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS. They are fairly common among sexually active people and as the name implies are generally (though not always) transmitted through sexual contact.** Ranging from the annoying to the life threatening, here is a list of important information on a few STDs.

STD Sexually Transmitted Diseases	WHAT IS IT?	HOW YOU GET IT?	WHEN WILL IT SHOW UP?	HOW CAN YOU TELL?	HOW DO YOU GET RID OF IT?
HIV & AIDS <i>WEB LINK</i>	AIDS is a set of symptoms caused by infection with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).	Transmitted most commonly through unprotected anal or vaginal sex, or by sharing needles.	Some people develop flu-like symptoms in the first month.	If you believe you have been infected, get tested. There are things you can do, especially if you act within the first 72 hours.	AIDS is STILL a life-threatening syndrome. There is no cure or vaccine, but new treatments are helping people live longer.
SYPHILIS <i>WEB LINK</i>	Bacteria that causes sores on your ass, dick and/or mouth, and will spread throughout the body if untreated.	Unprotected sexual contact with sores.	Average 21 days	Sores on genitals or mouth; then rash, swollen glands, fever. Left untreated it can damage any or all major organ systems and can lead to death.	Antibiotics can cure this one if detected early enough.
HEPATITIS B <i>WEB LINK</i>	A virus that causes inflammation of the liver.	Contact with infected blood or body fluids, unprotected sex.	Average 60 to 90 days.	Fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, yellowing of the skin, dark urine.	A vaccine is available. Untreated, hepatitis can cause fatal liver damage.
GONORRHEA & HERPES	Bacterial infections of the urethra (the opening on your dick), throat or ass.	Unprotected sex.	Average 3 to 5 days.	Unusual discharge or burning from your dick. Chlamydia sometimes has NO symptoms.	Antibiotics- some strains are becoming tougher to cure as the bacteria adapts to antibiotics.

GENITAL HERPES	A virus that causes sores on the sex organs or mouth.	Transmitted through skin contact. Some people transmit herpes virus even though they have no visible sores.	About 5 to 21 days.	Small painful sores that go away and reappear later; they may itch, burn, tingle or ooze.	No cure for herpes, but some treatments lessen symptoms and prevent outbreaks.
GENITAL WARTS	Virus that infects the sex organs and may cause warts or bumps.	Transmitted through contact with warts. (Some are too small to see.)	5 days to several months.	Small painless bumps on genitals or anal area may itch.	No cure, but a doctor can remove warts by freezing or burning them off.
SCABIES & CRABS	Small insects that live on or under the skin around your crotch or other body parts.	Transmitted through sex, but also via shared clothing and bedding.	3 days to several weeks.	Rash & itching, may be worse at night.	Treated with medicated lotion by prescription or over-the-counter brand names like RID or A-200 at your local store.

(*Little Black Book V 2.0 Queer in the 21st Century, Gay City Health Project, Seattle, WA. For a copy of the booklet, call Aids Action Hotline (Boston, MA.) toll free 1-800-235-2331 or online at www.aac.org) Tell them Brandon of Brandon's POZ Parties sent you.

** Also, view the HOW SAFE IS THAT? list on this page for other vital information.