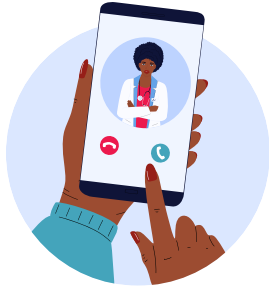


How to book an STI test

You can get an STI test by going to a general practitioner (GP) or sexual health clinic.

You can book an appointment just for the STI test, or, if you're already at the doctor for another health issue, you can ask to get tested while you're there.



Where to go

Search online for a GP or sexual health clinic near you. For a map of sexual health services in WA, scan this QR code



Helpful tips


- To find a GP that's confident with sexual health knowledge, look at their online bio to see if sexual health is in their area of interest.
- If you're in financial hardship: bulk-billing and low cost services are available. Try calling the service to see what they can offer.
- If you're not comfortable going in person, there are some at-home STI tests you can order online (check out Google for that one).

STIs happen
Be proud to test



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What is an STI test?

STI tests look for the presence of sexually transmitted infections (STI) in the body.

Testing methods vary and may include a urine sample, throat swab, blood test, anal swab, vaginal swab and lesion swab.

There's no one test that can detect every STI, so you will usually be given a few testing methods and asked to collect them yourself in a private space. If you are experiencing symptoms, the doctor or nurse may swab the site of the symptoms.



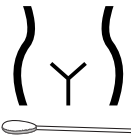
Urine sample

Tests for chlamydia and gonorrhoea



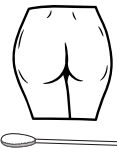
Throat swab

Tests for STIs in the throat



Vaginal swab

Tests for STIs in the vagina



Anal swab

tests for STIs in the anus



Blood test

Tests for HIV, syphilis and hepatitis A, B & C



Lesion swab

Tests the site of STI symptoms

The only way to know if you have an STI is to get tested

The signs and symptoms of an STI can vary and often there won't be symptoms at all.

When someone doesn't know if they have an STI and it's left untreated, there may be long term health consequences. Getting an STI test keeps you and your sexual partners safe and healthy.

How often should I get tested?

STIs can effect anyone who is sexually active, so STI testing should be a regular part of maintaining a healthy sex life. STIs can be transmitted through oral sex, vaginal sex, anal sex and skin to skin contact and it is important to be tested based on the type of sex you are having.

How often you should test depends on your sexual activity. Generally:

- If you're sexually active with more than one person, consider testing every 3-6 months.

Talk to your doctor or sexual health clinic to find out what frequency of testing is recommended for you.

Testing positive

STIs are common and not something to be ashamed or embarrassed about. Receiving a positive result may feel overwhelming, however, most STIs can be treated or managed.

Treatment for STIs can vary, whilst on treatment, it is important to abstain from sexual activity as you may still be able to transmit the infection.

STIs that cannot be treated, but can be managed require additional safety considerations (such as condoms or dams) to reduce likelihood of transmission.

Confidentiality

STI testing is confidential and kept private between you and your health professional. Certain sexual health clinics allow for anonymous testing and do not require a medicare card.

In the case of a positive result, the health department will be notified. This is mainly used for data, trends and to inform public health responses.

If you are particularly concerned about remaining private and anonymous- please contact the doctor or clinic to discuss.

What STI tests do I need?

Depending on the types of sex you have, and what body parts you have, you will need different testing methods.

If you've had:

Get these tests:

Which test for:



Oral sex



chlamydia,
gonorrhea,
and syphilis



Anal sex



chlamydia,
gonorrhea,
syphilis and
HIV



Vaginal sex



chlamydia,
gonorrhea,
syphilis and
HIV

Note: with herpes, no test is required unless you have symptoms.

You can take this resource with you to the doctor and point to which tests you need.



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