

# sex talk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

wildfact

April is STD Awareness Month. Make the pledge to Get Yourself Tested (GYT).

## Q How long after unprotected sex can you get tested?

A. It depends. Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are caused by a variety of organisms that fall into four main categories: bacterial, fungal, parasitic, and viral. Contrary to popular belief, there is not one “super” test that can screen for the over 25 different organisms that cause STIs. Each STI requires its own unique test, and each test has a specific time frame before results can be accurately determined.

So, how long after exposure can you be tested for some of the most common STIs?

Chlamydia .....	7 - 10 days
Gonorrhea .....	7 days
Hepatitis B.....	45 days - 6 months
Herpes .....	2 - 90 days
HPV.....	14 days - years
HIV.....	3 weeks - 3 months
Syphilis.....	10 - 90 days

Getting tested is important considering 1 in 2 sexually active people will get an STI by age 25 and most won't know it. How could someone not know? Many STIs show no signs or symptoms, which is why getting tested regularly (and after risky behaviors) is a smart idea. If left untreated, STIs can cause

significant long-term health problems.

Talk with your doctor about getting tested. Be open and honest about your sexual health history, and let them know if you or your partner have any signs or symptoms, including painful urination, bumps, sores, and unusual discharge. From there, your doctor will be able to narrow down which test(s) to perform. Types of tests include: urine samples, blood tests, physical exams, and cultures.

Campus Health offers confidential STI and HIV testing which you can bill to your Bursar's account – it shows up on your statement as “Campus Health Charge.” Every year, thousands of UA students come to Campus Health to get tested. To make an appointment, call 520-621-9202. If you have questions about testing or your sexual health, call 520-621-4967 to speak with a health educator.



Remember, the only way to be 100% sure about your STI status is to get tested.



SCAN THIS FOR MORE SEXTALK!



Have a question? Send it to [sextalk@email.arizona.edu](mailto:sextalk@email.arizona.edu)

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