

# sex talk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

## wildfact

Thousands of Wildcats get tested for STDs every year. In fact, it's the number one thing students come to Campus Health for.

## Q Which STDs are curable?

A. Great question. Not all sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are curable, but all are treatable. So, how do we know if they're curable? We first need to look at their pathogenic, disease-causing origins. The most common STDs are viruses, bacteria, parasites, and protozoa. Among these, bacterial and protozoan STDs such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and trichomoniasis are readily curable with antibiotics. As for pubic lice (crabs) and scabies, creams or lotions containing permethrin are the standard, first-line treatments that are effective at removing these parasites.

Because antibiotics have no effect on viruses, herpes, genital warts (HPV), and HIV have been more problematic, despite huge leaps in modern medicine. Some types of HPV can be prevented in all genders through the Gardasil® vaccine. Herpes and HIV can both be managed through a variety

of drugs, and molluscum contagiosum (and some strains of HPV) can be treated by freezing off infected bumps. As of now, none of these viral STDs can be cured outright. Many individuals will have no visible signs or symptoms of viral STDs, which can delay treatment in some cases (HIV). Getting tested is the only way to know if you have an STD.

Even better than curing STDs is preventing them in the first place! Protect yourself and your partner(s) by getting tested, using condoms, and talking about STDs before you have sex. Keep in mind that even sex with a condom is not risk-free. Only through abstinence or mutually monogamous sex with an uninfected partner can you lower your risk to around zero.

Confidential STD testing and treatment is available at Campus Health. Call 621-9202 to schedule an appointment or stop by the Highland Commons building near 6th St. and Highland Ave. For more information on STDs and testing, visit [bit.ly/chsSTDtesting](http://bit.ly/chsSTDtesting).



**CAMPUS  
HEALTH**

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

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