Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) — sometimes called “sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)”— are very common. Approximately one in four college student has an STI.

While STIs often cause symptoms, some people have an STI and don’t know it because they don’t have symptoms. If you’re sexually active, it’s important to know your STI status to protect yourself, and sexual partners.

Most common STIs & symptoms
HPV, chlamydia, and herpes are the most common STIs among college students. Although treatment is available for all STIs, some STIs are not curable, including HPV and herpes.

STI symptoms might include sores, bumps, discharge, painful urination, or pain or discomfort during sex. However, some people have no symptoms, or very mild symptoms.

STIs can be transmitted even when symptoms are not present. Fortunately, tests are available to diagnose some STIs even if there are no symptoms.

When to get tested

If you have symptoms ...
It’s important to be evaluated in person by a clinician as soon as possible to determine the cause of the symptoms, and to receive medical treatment, if necessary.

If you don’t have symptoms ...
You can speak with a sexual health nurse at Cornell Health about recommended testing based on your risk factors. Visit health.cornell.edu/STI for testing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and Planned Parenthood.

Cost of testing
Preventive STI screenings (no symptoms) with a sexual health nurse are available to students at no cost.

Students who have symptoms and require a clinician visit have a $10 appointment charge.

Additional testing resources
Visit health.cornell.edu/STI for other testing resources and test sites in Tompkins County.

To help reduce STI transmission, NY State requires that positive STI tests be confidentially reviewed by the local health department and that assistance with proper treatment be provided to infected individuals and their partner(s).