

Live Well to  
Learn Well

Web:  
health.cornell.edu

Phone (24/7):  
607-255-5155

Fax:  
607-255-0269

Appointments:  
Monday–Saturday

Check web for hours,  
services, providers,  
and appointment  
information

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Ithaca, NY  
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# Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Testing

Some people have a sexually transmitted infection (STI) and don't know it. Others have symptoms of infection but don't know what to do. Still others may be concerned about their risk after learning their sexual partner has symptoms of infection.

Cornell Health has services and support to help you learn more about your STI status.

## What are symptoms of an STI?

Symptoms of sexually transmitted infections (STI) vary from person to person, or may not be present at all. The following are often symptoms of infection and should be evaluated:

- painful urination
- unusual discharge from the vagina, penis, anus
- skin changes (bumps, sores, rashes, lesions or warts) in or around the genitals, anus or throat
- genital/anal itching or pain
- pelvic discomfort/pain, abnormal PAP smear
- testicular pain

## If you HAVE symptoms:

It's important to be evaluated by a clinician, as medical treatment may be necessary. You can schedule by phone (607 255-5155) or online (at myCornellHealth).

If you are experiencing discomfort at the time of your call, be sure to let our staff know so that they can schedule you for a same-day appointment or make arrangements for you to speak with a nurse if a same-day appointment is not possible.

## Is there one test for everything?

Sadly, no. STIs can be bacterial, viral, fungal, etc., and there is no one inclusive test. When you get tested, you may require several different assessments (a urine test, a vaginal and/or anal swab, blood testing, etc.)

## Can I transmit an infection to a partner if I don't have symptoms?

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

## If you DON'T HAVE symptoms:

Consultations with a sexual health nurse are available to help you learn more and/or get tested. You can make an appointment for a nurse visit online by going to myCornellHealth, accessible from every page of [health.cornell.edu](http://health.cornell.edu)



*Testing for many STIs is possible whether or not you have symptoms.*

## What happens during STI testing?

Depending on your gender, symptoms, and sexual history, a provider may:

- Ask detailed questions about your sexual activity
- Answer any questions you have
- Conduct a physical assessment/examination (*clinicians only*)
- Provide you with instructions to take a urine sample and/or vaginal swab
- Collect a sample by swabbing your throat, penis, or anus (*clinician only*)
- Send you to the lab for a blood sample

## Cost of testing

If you have the Cornell Student Health Plan (SHP or SHP-M) or you pay the student health fee, then there is no charge for STI tests performed at Cornell Health. If your testing needs exceed that which can be conducted by a sexual health nurse, you will be scheduled to see a clinician. This visit is also free of charge.

## Additional testing resources

- The Tompkins County Health Department makes free STI testing available to its residents. They contract with the local Planned Parenthood to provide this service for residents of Tompkins County. For information about free testing, call 607-273-1513.
- You may also contact your own primary care provider for assistance. Costs will vary.

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).

