



Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Testing: More than Just Genitals

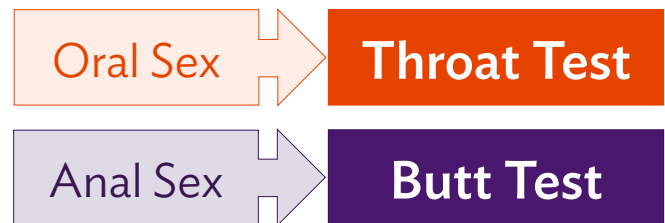
Typically, STI tests are done to detect infections in your genitals (your vagina or penis). But if you have oral or anal sex, you need to be tested in other areas as well, like your throat or butt.

Who should get their throat and/or butt tested?

- If you give oral sex to partners, you can get an STI in your throat. “Giving” means that your mouth is on a partner’s genitals or anus (butt), regardless of your gender or theirs.
- If you receive anal sex, you can get an STI in your butt. “Receiving” means that a partner is inserting their penis into your butt.

Why get tested?

- STIs like chlamydia and gonorrhea can live in your throat and butt.
- You can have an STI in more than one area of your body at the same time—for example, in your throat AND your penis or vagina—or you can have chlamydia and/or gonorrhea in one part of your body and not in others. This is why you need to be tested in different areas.
- Even if a physical exam of your genitals or a urine test doesn’t detect chlamydia or gonorrhea, you can still have these STIs in your throat or butt.
- Chlamydia and gonorrhea can be cured with medication prescribed by your provider.
- However, if untreated, they can cause serious health problems, including infertility (not able to get pregnant), AND increase your risk of getting or transmitting HIV.
- STIs in the throat and butt often do not show any symptoms, but you can still pass them on to your partners. The only way to be sure is to get tested.



What to expect

- Testing of your throat and butt is done by collecting a swab in each opening separately.
- The test includes inserting a thin stick with a soft brush on the end—the swab—in your mouth and/or butt and twirling it around for a few seconds.
- The swabs may feel a little awkward, but they are quick, easy, and painless.

Talking with your provider

Tell your health care provider about the kinds of sex you have—oral, anal, and/or vaginal. And, ask about getting tested at all places.

A health care provider who takes good care of your sexual health will:

- Put you at ease and listen to any sexual and reproductive health issues that matter to you.
- Answer your questions and address your concerns in a helpful, respectful way.
- Ask permission before performing any tests.
- Explain what they’re doing and the reason why.
- Not judge you.

If you need to get tested and don’t have a provider (or are looking for a new one), use [CDC’s GetTested](#) to find testing locations near you.