

# STI TESTING

STI stands for sexually transmitted infection. Sometimes it is referred to as STD, or sexually transmitted disease. Anyone can transmit them regardless of sexuality or gender. It is totally up to you if you get tested, however, it is simple, quick and free, and can save you a lot of worry.

## COMMON STI SYMPTOMS

- Pain when urinating or ejaculating
- Discharge from penis or vagina
- Pain during sex
- Blisters or sores on genitals
- Itching
- Rash
- Bleeding during or after sex

To find out more, or in more detail, visit Sexual Health Scotland. They even have a symptom-o-tron!

## DO I EVEN NEED A TEST?

Just because you don't have symptoms doesn't mean you don't have an STI. **If you had unprotected sex or something (like a broke condom) went wrong, it might be a good idea to check.** Many people don't even know they have them until they get sick sometime in the future. Unfortunately, they can still pass them on.

**If you have a new partner,** try to use condoms or dental dams until you both know you don't have STIs. Condoms don't only protect from pregnancy but also from infections.

Has someone you slept with recently contacted you with the news? Yikes. Nobody wants to give or receive that call. It doesn't automatically mean that you have the infection, but you should definitely check it out.

Most STIs can be cured with medications and those that cannot, can be managed. However, it is easiest to treat in the early stages. **Don't wait for symptoms to appear.**

## WHERE CAN I GET TESTED?



**Chalmers Sexual Health Centre,** where all tests and treatments are free.

- Walk-in clinic available Monday to Friday 8:30am to 10am
- Reception phone number: 0131 536 1070
- They offer a myriad of services, which you can find on their website.

**Your GP.** Some GPs will provide screenings but may refer you to specialist clinics as well.

You can buy an **at-home STI testing kit** online if you don't want to attend a clinic, but these are not free. If you choose this option, make sure you buy from a reliable source.

You can find local drop testing by searching for locations online or asking your local GP.

Sources:

<https://www.sexualhealthscotland.co.uk/the-clinic/do-i-need-a-test>;  
[https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/support\\_and\\_advice/the\\_advice\\_place/wellbeing/sex/sti\\_testing/](https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/support_and_advice/the_advice_place/wellbeing/sex/sti_testing/)