

Can you get sexually transmitted infections from oral sex?

March 2, 2020 By [Liz Highleyman](#)

Several sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including chlamydia, gonorrhea, herpes, human papillomavirus (HPV) and syphilis, can be spread through oral sex, [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Herpes simplex virus 1 primarily causes cold sores and fever blisters around the mouth while herpes simplex virus 2 causes genital herpes, but the two viruses can be spread from one location to the other. Oral chlamydia and gonorrhea can sometimes cause a sore throat, but they are often asymptomatic. There are simple tests for chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis, and all can be treated with antibiotics.

Using a condom, dental dam or other barrier during oral sex can reduce the risk of acquiring or transmitting STIs. A growing proportion of oral cancers are caused by HPV, which can be [prevented with a vaccine](#).
