

WHO OFFERS STI SCREENING AND PREVENTION SERVICES?

Your local CLSC has an integrated sexually transmitted and bloodborne infection screening and prevention service (SIDEP). This service provides testing as well as pre- and post-test consultations, vaccination, referrals to other resources and support, all in one place. These services are offered by health professionals, are completely confidential, and respect individuals and their needs.

AT LEAST ONE INFECTED PERSON IN THREE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IT. GET TESTED FOR HIV AND STI.

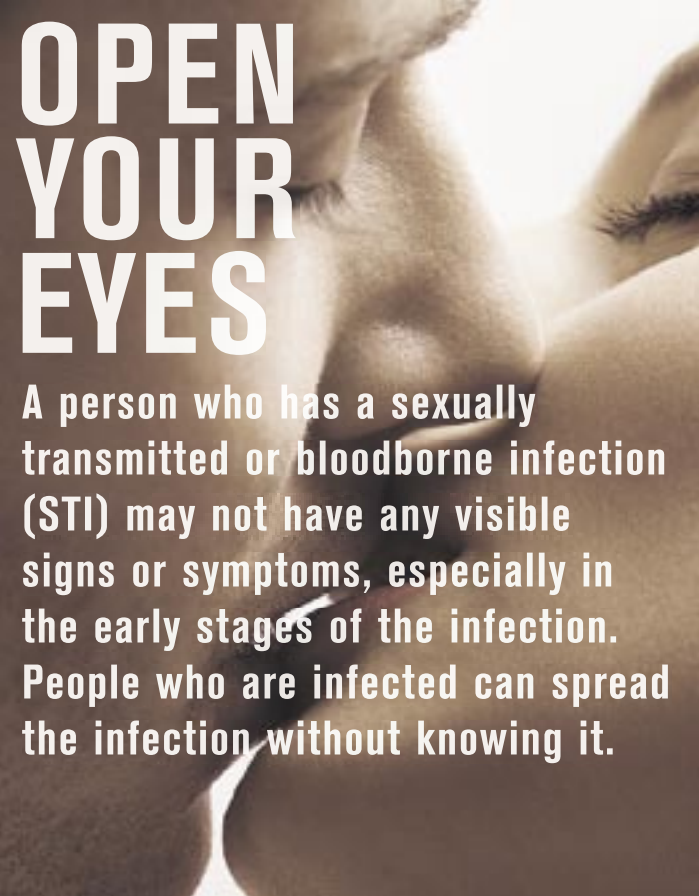


- Consult the SIDEP screening service,
 - consult a physician,
 - call Info-santé,
 - look at the list of screening centres by region posted on the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
- Web site:
www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/itss

BE AWARE! STI AND HIV SCREENING CONCERNS ALL OF US.

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OPEN YOUR EYES



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A person who has a sexually transmitted or bloodborne infection (STI) may not have any visible signs or symptoms, especially in the early stages of the infection. People who are infected can spread the infection without knowing it.

GETTING TESTED IS SIMPLE AND FAST

For some tests, all that is needed is a urine sample; for others, a blood sample is required.



WHAT ARE STIs ?

Are you familiar with sexually transmitted and bloodborne infections?

THEY INCLUDE:

- chlamydia, condylomas, gonorrhoea, genital herpes, syphilis, HIV-AIDS and hepatitis A, B and C.

THEY CAN BE SPREAD:

- through sexual relations (oral, anal or vaginal) when condoms are not used;
- through direct or indirect contact with the blood of someone who is infected;
- by sharing injection drug equipment.

These infections and the complications that follow are avoidable, and most of them can be treated.

BUT FIRST, YOU MUST HAVE AN APPROPRIATE SCREENING TEST!



REASONS FOR REQUESTING FOR AN STI SCREENING TEST.

STIs AFFECT MANY PEOPLE.

A-You or your partner have had unprotected sexual relations with:

- a new partner,
- someone who has had several partners,
- someone who has had a new sex partner while travelling,
- a new partner who is from a country where these infections are endemic,
- a man who has sex with men,
- someone infected with an HIV infection,
- someone who currently has an STI or who has had one in the past,
- a sex worker,
- someone who injects drugs or steroids.

Other reasons to be tested:

B-If you have shared drug injection or inhalation equipment with someone, even once in your lifetime.

C-If you have gotten a tattoo or piercing with used needles or equipment.

D-You are in a stable relationship and you would like to stop using condoms.

E-You are unsure about your previous sexual partners or sexual practices or about possible contacts with blood, and you are concerned you might possibly have caught an infection.

If any of these situations apply to you, you should ask for an STI screening test.