

# Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Basic Panel

The STD panel is a group of tests used to screen for common sexually transmitted diseases including **syphilis**, **chlamydia**, **gonorrhea** and **HIV**. These tests screen for the antibodies the body produces in response to the infection.

## Syphilis Screen

Syphilis is an infection caused by the bacteria *Treponema pallidum* and is most often spread by sexual contact. Syphilis testing screens for the presence of antibodies the body produces in response to the bacteria.

### How is the test performed?

An initial blood test is performed to look for antibodies the body produces as a result of the infection. If antibodies are found, a second test, called a reflex test, is performed to confirm the antibodies specifically target the syphilis bacteria to rule out the possibility of a false positive.

### Is syphilis curable?

Syphilis can be cured when treated with a course of antibiotics.

### What should I do if my results are positive or negative?

It is always recommended to meet with a healthcare provider to determine what your laboratory test results mean to you.

**If your results were positive:** A confirmatory result indicates a high likelihood that you are infected. However, even with confirmation, false positive results can occur. Your test results should be discussed with your healthcare provider.

**If your results were negative:** A negative test result simply means the test did not detect the organism and doesn't necessarily indicate a clean bill of health. If you have symptoms or concerns over potential exposure, you should speak with your healthcare provider.

## Gonorrhea/Chlamydia Screen

The gonorrhea/chlamydia test is to screen for or diagnose a gonorrhea and/or chlamydia infection. Testing for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (gonorrhea) is generally done simultaneously as the two organisms have similar clinical presentations. A definitive diagnosis is important since the symptoms of chlamydia can resemble those of gonorrhea and the two infections require different antibiotic treatment.

## Gonorrhea Testing

The test is looking for presence of the bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, which causes the STD. Gonorrhea is generally transmitted through sexual contact (oral, vaginal, or anal) with an infected partner.

### Is gonorrhea curable?

Gonorrhea can be cured when treated with a course of antibiotics.

## Chlamydia Testing

This test is looking for evidence of infection by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. Chlamydia is the most common bacterial sexually transmitted disease (STD) in the United States and can infect both men and women.

### Is chlamydia curable?

Chlamydia can be cured when treated with a course of antibiotics.

### What should I do if my gonorrhea/chlamydia test results are abnormal or out of range?

It is always recommended to meet with a healthcare provider to determine what your laboratory test results mean to you.

**If your results were positive:** You should share your results with your healthcare provider to discuss treatment options and/or further testing.

**If your results were negative:** A negative test result simply means the test did not detect the organism and doesn't necessarily indicate a clean bill of health. If you have symptoms or concerns over potential exposure, you should speak with your healthcare provider.

*See other side for more information on the STD Panel.*

## HIV-1/2 Antigen & Antibodies, 4th Gen with Reflexes

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the cause of AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). HIV screening tests detect the HIV antigen (p24) and/or HIV antibodies produced in response to an HIV infection in the blood.

### How is the test performed?

The combination HIV antibody and HIV antigen test is the recommended screening by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is available only as a blood test. The blood test detects the HIV antigen, called p24, plus antibodies to HIV-1 and HIV-2. (HIV-1 is the most common type found in the United States, while HIV-2 has a higher prevalence in parts of Africa.) If the initial test is positive, then it must be followed by a second test, called a reflex test, to establish a diagnosis. This second test is an antibody test that is different than the first test. If the second test does not agree with the first test, then a third test is performed that detects the genetic material (RNA) of the virus. An HIV RNA test will detect HIV in most people within 1-4 weeks after infection.

### Is HIV curable?

There is no cure for HIV, but early treatment can help.

### What should I do if my results are positive or negative?

It is always recommended to meet with a healthcare provider to determine what your laboratory test results mean to you.

**If your results were positive:** Since the HIV test requires a reflex test for confirmation, a person with a positive result is considered to be infected with HIV.

**If your results were negative:** A negative test for HIV antigen and/or HIV antibody usually indicates that a person does not have an HIV infection. A negative screening test means only that there is no evidence of disease at the time of the test, however it is important for those who are at increased risk of HIV infection to have screening tests performed on a yearly basis to check for possible exposure to the virus.

### What other resources are available to learn more about my health and laboratory tests?

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)
- Lab Tests Online: [labtestsonline.org](http://labtestsonline.org)
- WebMD: [webmd.com](http://webmd.com)

*DLO Direct offers direct access to laboratory testing for informational purposes. A DLO Direct lab test result is not a medical diagnosis and is not intended as medical advice. Only a healthcare provider can interpret lab results and diagnose a medical condition or disease.*

*Because tests have not been ordered by a healthcare provider, third party entities, including Medicare and Medicaid, will not reimburse for these tests.*



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