

STI Screening Timetable

How long until STI (sexually transmitted infection) screening tests turn positive? How long until STI symptoms might show up? The time between infection and a positive test, or between infection and symptoms, is variable and depends on many factors, including the behavior of the infectious agent, how and where the body is infected, and the state of a person's immune system and personal health. *Many STIs don't have any symptoms.* The incubation period times listed in the chart below are averages only. If you have further questions or concerns, you can schedule an appointment with a clinician at 541-346-2770.

STI screening test	Window period (time from exposure until screening test turns positive)	Incubation period (time between exposure and when symptoms appear)
Chlamydia (urine specimen or swab of vagina, rectum, throat)	1 week most of the time 2 weeks catches almost all	<i>Often no symptoms</i> 1-3 weeks on average
Gonorrhea (urine specimen on swab of vagina, rectum, throat)	1 week most of the time 2 weeks catches almost all	<i>Often no symptoms, especially vaginal infections</i> usually within 2-8 days but can be up to 2 weeks
Syphilis (blood test, RPR)	1 month catches most 3 months catches almost all	<i>Often symptoms too mild to notice</i> 10-90 days average 21 days
HIV (oral cheek swab)	1 month catches most 3 months catches almost all	<i>Sometimes mild body aches and fever within 1-2 weeks</i> then can be months to years
HIV (blood test, antigen/antibody testing method)	2 weeks catches most 6 weeks catches almost all	<i>Sometimes mild body aches and fever within 1-2 weeks</i> then can be months to years
Herpes (blood test, antibody testing method)	1 month catches most 4 months catches almost all	<i>Sometimes symptoms too mild to notice</i> 2-12 days, average 4 days
Trichomonas (swab of vagina)	1 week catches most 1 month catches almost all	<i>Often no symptoms</i> 5-28 days
Hepatitis B virus (blood test, antibody testing method)	3-6 weeks	<i>Often no symptoms</i> usually 6 weeks but can be up to 6 months
Hepatitis C virus (blood test, antibody testing method)	2 months catches most 6 months catches almost all	<i>Often no symptoms</i> usually 2-6 weeks, but can be up to 6 months
Cervical HPV (Pap smear)	3 weeks to a few months	<i>Often no symptoms</i> months to years
Genital and anal warts	No screening test	3 weeks to many months
Molluscum contagiosum	No screening test	2 weeks to 6 months
Pubic lice	No screening test	2 days to 2 weeks

Data compiled from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/std