

Genital Herpes

What is genital herpes?

Genital herpes is a sexually transmissible infection (STI).

How do I know if I have genital herpes?

The symptoms of genital herpes can vary widely.

Symptoms may include genital:

- pain
- itch
- blisters/sores

Other symptoms may include:

- pain or difficulty when passing urine
- fever, headache, pain in the joints/lower back/legs

Some people may experience recurrent symptoms.

Herpes is best diagnosed by swabs collected by your doctor/nurse. Blood tests are not recommended as they are not a reliable method of diagnosing herpes.

How can I get genital herpes?

Herpes is transmitted from skin-to-skin contact with someone who has the infection. Herpes can be transmitted by people who do not know they are infected or people who do not have symptoms.

What is the treatment for genital herpes?

Antiviral medications may reduce the severity and duration of symptoms. Treatment can control herpes but does not cure the infection.

Do sexual partners need treatment?

If your partners have symptoms they should be assessed by a doctor/nurse.

Video

Herpes

<https://youtu.be/yhpfrZFnVU0>



Screening for STIs

All sexually active people should consider regular testing for sexually transmissible infections.

Gold Coast Sexual Health Service offers express STI screening that is available without an appointment providing you:

- do not have symptoms
- have not been in contact with a sexually transmissible infection.

If you have symptoms, or have been in contact with an STI, contact Gold Coast Sexual Health Service for an appointment.

Check our website at: <https://www.goldcoast.health.qld.gov.au/our-services/sexual-health> for times and locations



Interpreter services

Gold Coast Health provides interpreter services for patients who are from non-English speaking backgrounds. If you require the assistance of an interpreter, please indicate this on your registration form and advise Gold Coast Health prior to your appointment.

Interpreter services are provided free of charge to all patients who require the service, including non-Medicare patients.



For further information or support, please contact:
Sexual health
Southport Health Precinct
16-30 High St, Southport, 4215
Phone: 1300 744 284

