Important information for you!

Why am I receiving this?

Someone you had sexual contact with has been diagnosed with gonorrhea. This person cares about your health and told a health care provider that they may have exposed someone else to gonorrhea. You are receiving this educational material to make sure you are informed of your possible exposure and have information to take care of your health.

Expedited Partner Treatment

Expedited partner treatment (EPT) lets health care providers give medication or a prescription to patients diagnosed with gonorrhea to give to their partner(s) who may have been exposed.

How do I use EPT?

1. Read this information to find out about EPT, gonorrhea, and the medicine used to treat it. Make sure that you can take it safely.
2. The medicine given to you specifically treats gonorrhea.* You should contact a health care provider to get tested for other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV.
3. If you have a prescription, go to a pharmacy and fill the prescription.
4. Once you have the medicine, follow the information provided. If you have questions, talk with a pharmacist or health care provider.
5. Follow up with a health care provider in three months to make sure that you do not have gonorrhea. Get tested for other STIs and HIV.
6. If you have other sex partners who you think may have been exposed to gonorrhea, tell them to get tested or contact Maine CDC and ask about Partner Services- a way to anonymously notify your sex partners of potential exposure to an STI and/or HIV.

*If you also get EPT for chlamydia, you will need to take both medicines to cure both chlamydia and gonorrhea.

If you are pregnant or think you could be pregnant, see a health care provider as soon as possible. **Certain medications are not safe to take during pregnancy**. If you are pregnant, contact your health care provider for a complete exam including testing for HIV and STIs.

What is gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is an STI caused by bacteria that you can get from oral, vaginal, or anal sex. Anyone who has sex can get gonorrhea. Gonorrhea can infect the genitals, the mouth, throat, and rectum. Gonorrhea is spread through sex with someone who has gonorrhea, without the proper use of a condom or dental dam.

How do I know if I have gonorrhea?

There are many symptoms of gonorrhea, but many people do not have any symptoms. People who do not have symptoms can still pass infection to other sex partners.

If you have symptoms, they usually start within 60 days after you had sex with someone who has gonorrhea. Many times, symptoms appear within a few weeks. People with symptoms may have one or more of the following:

- Painful, frequent urination
- Discharge/ unusual fluids from the genitals
- Vaginal spotting or bleeding between periods or during sex
- Redness or swelling of the opening of the penis
- Bleeding, itching, or pus from the rectum
- Throat infection with swollen glands in the neck

If you have symptoms of a more serious infection (e.g. fever, pelvic pain in women, testicular pain in men) seek medical care as soon as possible.

Cefixime (Suprax)

Cefixime is an antibiotic. It will only cure gonorrhea. It will not cure other STIs. Cefixime is not as effective at treating gonorrhea in your throat compared to the preferred treatment for gonorrhea. Contact a health care provider for the preferred treatment if you have gonorrhea in your throat.

If you throw up within 24 hours of taking the medicine, call a health care provider. The medicine might not have gotten into your body to treat the infection.

DO NOT share this medicine.

DO NOT have oral, anal, or vaginal sex with or without condoms or dental dams for seven days after you take this medicine.

How can I protect myself from STIs?

Get tested for other STIs. You should get tested at each body site where you have sex. Certain STIs, such as gonorrhea and chlamydia, can infect the genitals, throat, and rectum. Testing only the genitals may miss an infection you have elsewhere. If you have a history of two or more STIs, you are at increased risk for re-infection and HIV.

Wait to have sex. After you and your partner(s) each take the medicine, wait at least seven days before you have any sex. This gives the medicine time to work. If you have sex too soon, you or your partner(s) could get the infection again. Talk about the risk and prevention of STIs with new partner(s) BEFORE you have sex.

Use a condom or dental dam every time you have oral, anal, or vaginal sex. When used correctly, condoms and dental dams can greatly reduce the risk of getting STIs.

For more information, please contact your health care provider or Maine CDC's STI Prevention Program at 207.287.3747 or maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/diseases-conditions/sexually-transmitted-diseases