

# Chancroid

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Chancroid is a bacterial infection that spreads through vaginal, anal and oral sex. It is extremely rare in New York City.

## Symptoms

Chancroid can cause painful sores on the genitals. Sores begin as tender red bumps that can grow, become painful and bleed.

Other symptoms can include:

- Pain during urination
- Pain or bleeding during sex
- Pain or bleeding with a bowel movement
- Painful, swollen lymph nodes in the groin

## **Prevention**

Condoms and dental dams can prevent the transmission of chancroid but only if they cover the infected area (sores).

## **Testing**

A health care provider will use a swab to collect a sample of fluid from a sore.

## **Treatment**

Chancroid is treated with antibiotics. The full treatment is needed to clear the infection, so it is important to take all the medication, even if you feel better.

## **Why Get Treatment**

If left untreated, chancroid can cause serious damage to any areas with sores, such as the skin, genitals or rectum. Having chancroid also makes it more likely to get or transmit HIV.

## **Sex Partners**

Your sex partners also need to be treated so they do not develop serious health issues, reinfect you or pass on the infection to others. You should tell all of your sex partners from the previous 10 days about your infection so they can be examined and treated.

# Chancroid and Pregnancy

We do not know of any serious effects for babies of pregnant people with chancroid. You should still let your health care provider know that you are pregnant when you seek treatment for chancroid.

New York City Sexual Health Clinics provide confidential, low- to no-cost services including STI and HIV testing.

To find a clinic, visit [nyc.gov/health/clinics](https://nyc.gov/health/clinics).

