#STDfactsmatter

How can I know for sure that I don't have an STD?

Talk to your doctor or visit a clinic that does STD screening.
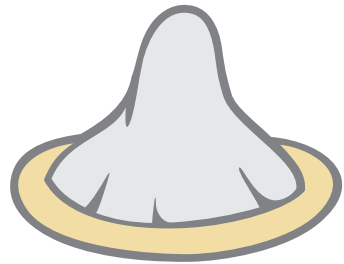
Here are some online resources to help you find a facility:
- Visit the CDC's findstdtest.org, where teens can locate a nearby STD testing center.
- Use the testing site locator at www.hivtest.org.
- Find your local Florida County Health Department at www.floridahealth.gov.
- Find your local Planned Parenthood at www.plannedparenthood.org.

Will the clinic have to tell my parents if I get tested? Florida law allows teenagers to get reproductive health services, including contraception and STD testing, without parental consent.

How can I prevent getting an STD?

Abstinence is the first strategy for the best protection. Condoms are very effective for preventing chlamydia, gonorrhea, HIV and hepatitis B. Use condoms consistently and correctly at all sites of exposure: in the mouth, in the rectum and in the vagina. Having a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship with one partner who has been tested and is known to be uninfected can lower your risk of getting STDs, including HIV. Vaccination is another way to prevent becoming infected. So far, the only effective vaccines available are for hepatitis B and HPV.

Did You Know?

- Condoms can also reduce the risk of pregnancy.
- Viral STDs can be treated but cannot be cured (HIV, genital warts, herpes and hepatitis).
- Remember to use your protection method each and every time you have sex.
- Left untreated, STDs can damage your reproductive system and create serious health risks.
- Bacterial STDs can be treated and cured (gonorrhea, syphilis and chlamydia).
- If you get an STD, you are more likely to get HIV than someone who is STD-free.

CONDOM

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