

HPV: ARE YOU PROTECTED?



SYMPTOMS: Genital Warts

- Appear 3-8 weeks after viral exposure.
- Flesh-colored or gray warts are typically painless, but can cause discomfort, bleeding, painful urination, and painful sexual intercourse.
- Women can develop growths on their labia minora, vaginal opening, vaginal canal, cervix, and in the anal area.
- Men can develop growths on their penis, urethra, scrotum, and in the anal area.

Cancers

- Females who contract one of the cancer-causing strains of HPV can eventually develop cervical cancer.
- HPV-16 and 18 are responsible for 70% of all cervical cancer cases, worldwide.

- HPV (Human papilloma-virus) is the most common viral STI
- Over 100 different strains of the HPV virus have been identified
- 40 strains are sexually transmitted
- 15 strains can cause cervical cancer
- HPV transmitted via vaginal or anal intercourse, but may also be passed during oral sex and genital-to-genital contact

WHY CARE?

- A recent study found that an estimated 32 % of females on college campuses are infected with HPV
- HPV is the #1 STI on college campuses

WHO IS AT RISK?

- ALL sexually active males and females are at risk of contracting HPV.
- In the U.S. alone, an estimated 20 MILLION people are currently infected with HPV.
- while most people clear HPV infection within 1-2 years, it may become latent and reoccur and spread to a partner later.
- Each year, there are approximately 5.5 million new cases of HPV infection.

If you are experiencing any of the symptoms of HPV/genital warts or would like any additional information on this or any other STI, please visit the Washington and Lee University Student Health Center.

TREATMENT/PREVENTION

- Genital warts can be temporarily removed by medical techniques or prescribed topical creams.
- Cervical cancer or HPV associated precancerous lesions of the cervix can be detected by a Pap test and treated effectively if found early.
- Vaccination against HPV is recommended for both women and men. Vaccination requires 3 doses over 6 months and is available at the Student Health Center.
- ALWAYS use barrier protection for sexual intercourse, oral sex, and skin-to-skin sexual contact.