



planned
parenthood

TORONTO

**YOUR
HEALTH.
YOUR
CHOICE.**

Molluscum Contagiosum Virus

Talk to your partner(s) about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and your health before you have sex. You can pass on an STI without knowing you have one. During sex, you can use latex condoms to lower your chances of getting STIs.

What is molluscum contagiosum?

Molluscum contagiosum is an infection caused by a virus.

How do you get molluscum contagiosum?

It is spread by skin to skin contact with someone who has the infection.

How can you tell if you have molluscum contagiosum?

Molluscum contagiosum causes growths that may look waxy and pinkish-white. They are firm and have the shape of a dome with a dent in the centre. You can get them around your chest, arms, genitals, thighs, buttocks, and lower abdomen. Molluscum are often found in clusters on the skin.

How do you get tested for molluscum contagiosum?

There is no special test. A clinician can tell if you have molluscum contagiosum by looking at the growths

How is molluscum contagiosum treated?

The growths are not bad for your health and they don't have to be removed. Many choose to treat molluscum because they spread. However, molluscum will go away on their own without leaving a scar. Molluscum can be frozen with liquid nitrogen, destroyed with various solutions, or scraped off surgically.

How do you prevent passing on molluscum contagiosum to your partner(s)?

Molluscum contagiosum is not dangerous. If your partner avoids contact with the growths, they will be less likely to develop molluscum contagiosum themselves.

It is important to use condoms or a latex barrier with sexual partners to decrease the risk of getting a sexually transmitted infection.

If you need further information or would like to book an appointment, call:

Planned Parenthood Toronto Health Services for youth ages 13 to 29. 416-927-7171. Health Services offers same-day, scheduled and drop-in appointments. For more information visit www.ppt.on.ca.

Women's Programming at the Bay Centre for Birth Control for women of all ages at 416-351-3700.

Youth can also access information about sexual health by calling the Teen Sex InfoLine at 416-961-3200 or chat live using MSN messenger at spiderbytes@hotmail.com from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Wednesday and 12 noon to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. You can also email us a question anytime at askus@spiderbytes.ca or visit www.spiderbytes.ca.