

STD Facts

Pubic Lice (“Crabs”) and Scabies (Pubic lice caused by *Phthirus pubis*, the crab louse, and Scabies caused by *Sarcoptes scabiei*, a mite)

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Pubic Lice and Scabies Symptoms:

- Severe itching
- Sometimes lice can be seen in hairy parts of body

TRANSMISSION

Pubic Lice and Scabies are Spread by:

- Sexual contact
- Close physical contact
- Infested towels, toilet seats, bedding and clothing

COMPLICATIONS/CONSEQUENCES

If Left Untreated:

- Pubic lice can spread from pubic hair to other hairy areas
- Scabies can spread through a family

PREVENTION

Recommendations to Reduce the Spread of Pubic Lice and Scabies:

- Get a test from a doctor or other medical provider if infection suspected
- Limit the number of sex partners
- Notify sex partners immediately if infested
- Infested sex partners should be treated
- Avoid sleeping in the same bed or sharing towels or clothes with someone who is infected

TREATMENT

Treatment of Pubic Lice and Scabies:

- Can be killed with proper use of medication from doctor
- Wash all clothes, bedding in hot water
- Vacuum furniture
- Treat partners at same time

NOTE: A person can be reinfected after treatment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines
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