

# Pregnancy and STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases)

## Why should you get tested for STDs if you are pregnant?

If you are pregnant you could still have an STD or bacterial vaginosis (BV). Even if you have been in a long term faithful relationship, one of you may have an STD and not know it. Many times STDs may not have any symptoms that you can see or feel.

## How can having an untreated STD hurt you and your baby?

Untreated STDs can cause you to have certain cancers, make it so that you cannot become pregnant again or make it become very difficult for you to get pregnant again.

STDs can cause your baby to be born too early. They can cause your baby to not be fully developed at birth and can cause other complications. After birth, the baby could have pneumonia, a serious infection of the blood stream, nerve damage, blindness, deafness, or have damage to the liver and other organs.



Get tested (turn over) →

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## **Make sure you and your baby are healthy—Get tested!**

Most of these problems can be prevented if the mother receives early health care. This includes screening tests for STDs. If you have an STD, you will receive treatment and find out ways to lower the chance that the STD could harm you or your baby.

Many women who are pregnant have STDs and do not know it. That's why it is important to ask to get tested for STDs and bacterial vaginosis.

### **For more information about STDs and testing, talk to your doctor or call:**

- Cayuga County East Hill 253-8477
- Madison County Planned Parenthood: 363-3950
- Oswego County Opportunities: 598-4790
- Onondaga County: STD Clinic 435-3240 or Planned Parenthood 866-600-6886

For more information call REACH CNY at 1-888-295-8662. Funded in part through the NYS Dept. of Health Division of Family Health.



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