
▶ **What is Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV)?**

LGV is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a type of chlamydia bacteria which can lead to serious health problems if left untreated.

▶ **How is LGV spread?**

You can get LGV by having direct contact with lesions, ulcers or where the bacteria is located during unprotected oral, vaginal or anal sex with an infected person.

▶ **How can I tell if I have LGV?**

You might notice:

- a small painless sore or lump at the spot where the bacteria entered your body (e.g. vagina, vulva, penis, rectum, cervix or mouth)
- flu-like symptoms (about 2-6 weeks after painless sore)—fever, headaches, muscle and joint pain,
- swollen glands in the infected area (groin, anal area or neck) which may drain or bleed
- blood and pus from your anus if you got the infection by this route

▶ **Is there a test for LGV?**

A swab is taken from the infected area and a blood test may be done.

▶ **How is LGV treated?**

Antibiotics will treat and cure LGV. It is important to:

- take all the pills as prescribed

- not have sex until you and your sex partner(s) have been tested and completed treatment

▶ **Is follow-up necessary?**

Yes. It is important to return for a checkup to make sure the infection is gone. You should have a test of cure done 3-4 weeks after completing your treatment.

If you tested positive:

A public health nurse will call you to talk about:

- treatment and prevention
- partner notification
- the recommendation to have repeat testing in six months

▶ **How do I protect myself and others?**

Talk with your partner and make informed decisions BEFORE having sex and plan to:

- abstain or limit your number of sex partners
- ask your partners to be tested before you have sex
- **always** use condoms or barriers for vaginal, oral and anal sex
- get an STI check-up—especially if either of you have had other sex partners or think you have an infection
- consider the effect that alcohol and drug use can have on sexual decision-making

Consider getting immunized for STIs such as hepatitis B and Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

▶ **Are there any special concerns about LGV?**

- LGV can increase the risk of getting or giving HIV, other STIs and blood-borne pathogens such as hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

- LGV is becoming more common. It is important to tell your health care provider of any travel to regions where LGV is prevalent.

Untreated LGV can cause:

- scarring and deformity in the genital or anal area
- meningoenitis, hepatitis and/or death in rare cases

▶ **Who can I talk to if I have more questions?**

If you have concerns or questions, call and ask for Sexual Health, or visit health unit website below.



**simcoe
muskoka**
DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

Tel: 705-721-7520
Toll free: 1-877-721-7520
www.simcoemuskokahealth.org

▶ **References**

[Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections \(2008\)](#)
[Centres for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

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Lymphogranuloma Venereum

