GONORRHEA FACTS

"Clap"

(Caused by Neisseria gonorrhea, a bacteria)

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Usually begin 2-7 days after exposure
- Most people have no symptoms

Gonorrhea Symptoms for Women:

- Most women have no symptoms
- Abnormal vaginal bleeding, discharge or itching
- Burning or pain during urination or bowel movement
- More pain than usual during periods
- Cramps and pain in lower abdomen
- Anal discomfort, itching or discharge

Gonorrhea Symptoms for Men:

- Most men have no symptoms
- Thick, white or yellow discharge (pus) from penis
- Burning or pain during urination or bowel movement
- Anal discomfort, itching or discharge

TRANSMISSION

Gonorrhea is spread by:

- Vaginal sex
- Oral sex
- Anal sex
- Infected mother to unborn child during childbirth

COMPLICATIONS

If left untreated, Gonorrhea can:

- Lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in women
- Lead to epididymitis (swollen testicles) in men
- Lead to ectopic (tubal) pregnancy
- Lead to infertility in men and women
- Cause infection in the joints and lesions on the skin
- Spread to other sex partners

Gonorrhea and pregnancy:

 Can be passed to newborn during childbirth and cause pneumonia, blood infection, joint infection, and blindness

PREVENTION

Recommendations to reduce the spread of Gonorrhea infection:

- Abstinence is the only sure way to prevent infection
- Always use latex condoms consistently and correctly during vaginal, oral and anal sex
- Limit your number of sex partners
- To prevent re-infection, notify all sex partners immediately to make sure they are tested and treated

TREATMENT

Can be cured with proper medication

A PERSON CAN BE RE-INFECTED AFTER TREATMENT, SO...

- All persons whom you have had sex with during the 60 days before onset of symptoms or during the 60 days before the time of your diagnosis should immediately be evaluated and treated
- To avoid re-infection, do not have sex until you and all of your sex partner(s) are:
 - o 7 days past the single-dose treatment

OR

o finished with the 7-day treatment

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Iowa Department of Public Health STD PROGRAM

Lucas State Office Building 321 E. 12th Street Des Moines, IA 50319-0075 (515) 281-3031

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/std _control.asp