Sexually Transmitted Diseases
Chlamydia

Transmitted by oral, anal, and vaginal sex, or by vaginal childbirth

Symptoms in women include vaginal bleeding or discharge, abdominal pain, fever, painful urination, and urgent urination; 50-70% of infected women are asymptomatic

Symptoms in men include painful urination, unusual discharge from the penis, swollen or tender testicles, and fever.

Treatment by antibiotics is available
Gonorrhea

**Transmitted** by oral, anal, and vaginal sex, or by vaginal childbirth

**Symptoms in women** include vaginal discharge, lower abdominal pain, or painful intercourse; 50% of infected women are asymptomatic

**Symptoms in men** include painful urination and discharge from the penis

**Treatment** by antibiotics is available
Syphilis

Transmitted by oral, anal, and vaginal sex, or by vaginal childbirth

Symptoms of primary infection include one or more open sores at the site of contact, starting 3-90 days after contact and lasting 3-6 weeks

Symptoms of secondary infection are varied but include multiple lesions across the body, fever, sore throat, fatigue, weight loss, hair loss, and headaches, starting 4-10 weeks after primary infection and lasting 3-6 weeks

Symptoms of tertiary infection develops in a third of untreated cases many years afterward

Treatment by antibiotics is effective in early stages
Candidiasis (thrush)

**Caused in women** when immune depression, diabetes, antibiotics, or other factors allow overgrowth of existing, asymptomatic yeast populations

**Transmitted to men** by genital contact with infected persons

**Symptoms of vaginal or vulval infections** include severe itching, burning soreness, and a whitish or grey cottage-cheese–like discharge

**Symptoms of penile infection** include red patchy sores near the head of the penis or foreskin, and severe itching or burning

**Treatment** by antimycotics (antifungal drugs) is available
Transmitted by oral, anal, and vaginal sex, by vaginal childbirth, and by injection of infected blood, such as during transfusion, tattooing, or dialysis.

Symptoms begin with poor appetite, nausea, vomiting, aches, fever, and dark urine, and later include jaundice (yellowish skin and eyes).

Vaccination is available.

Treatment can prevent further damage and control replication of the virus but will not clear existing viral particles from the system.
Herpes

**Transmitted** by direct contact with an active lesion, with skin during inactive periods, or with infected bodily fluids; this includes sex and vaginal childbirth

**Symptoms** include periodic sores at the site of infection (most commonly gums, lips, or genitalia) lasting 2-21 days, followed by an asymptomatic period

**Treatment** by antiviral medications can reduce frequency, duration, and severity of outbreaks, but no cure exists
Transmitted by oral, anal, and vaginal sex, by breastfeeding, by childbirth, and by contaminated needles; transfusions are no longer a major method in the U.S.

Symptoms during acute infection include fever, swollen lymph nodes, sore throat, muscle pain, fatigue, and mouth and esophageal sores lasting several weeks.

Symptoms during AIDS include low CD4+ T-cell counts and various opportunistic infections including tumors.

Treatment by antiretrovirals can delay the onset of AIDS but not clear existing infections.
Human Papillomavirus

Transmitted by sexual contact; condoms do not completely protect against the virus because transmission is also possible via uncovered areas such as the inner thigh.

Symptoms include warts on the hands, feet, genitalia, or fingernails, and in women may later cause cervical cancer; however, many infections are asymptomatic, especially in men.

Vaccination is available for those who have not previously been exposed.

Treatment is not available.
Molluscum contagiosum

**Transmitted** directly by contact with the active lesions, or indirectly through shared objects such as towels or clothing.

**Symptoms** include painless but sometimes itchy bumps 1-5 mm in diameter with a dimpled center, lasting several months; however, outbreaks can be prolonged by autoinoculation (when infection is spread from one site to another on the same person).

**Treatment** is often unnecessary but generally focuses on removing the lesions by cryosurgery, curettage, and chemical or laser ablation.
Transmitted directly by contact between infected individuals or indirectly via shared items such as towels, clothing, or beds, especially between parents and children.

Symptoms include itching, blue-grey bumps at feeding sites, and visible lice in the pubic hair or eyelashes.

Treatment using a variety of agents is available and generally accompanied by laundering of all potentially infected linens and clothing.
Scabies

Transmitted: directly by skin contact or indirectly through infected shared objects.

Symptoms: include intense itching, rash, and visible tracks underneath the skin.

Treatment: by a number of agents can be effective but requires simultaneous treatment of the entire household or community to prevent re-infection.