

Learn the facts. Protect yourself. Get tested.

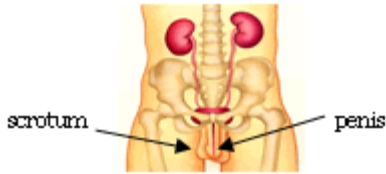
# Lymphogranuloma Venereum

(lim-FO gran-yoo-lo-mah ven-AYR-ee-um)  
*usually called "LGV"*

## What is LGV?

It's caused by **a bacteria** and may infect the areas near:

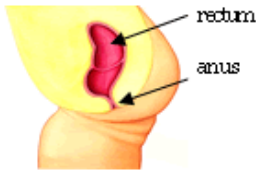
- the penis and scrotum



- the vulva



- or the anus or rectum.



## How do you get LGV?

If you have anal sex, oral sex, or vaginal sex **without a condom** with someone who has it, you can get it. It is passed through body fluids (like vaginal fluid or semen) or by rubbing infected skin.

You can't get it from:

- kissing or hugging
- shaking hands
- sharing food or using the same dish
- sitting on public toilets

## How do you know you have it?

**Many people don't know they have it. They may not have symptoms or may think they have something else.**

**You may have:**

- small sores, blisters, or bumps
- swollen glands in your groin
- diarrhea or constipation
- mucus in your feces

**To find out more about STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) or for information about where you can go to get tested, call (617) 983-6940 or visit [www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/std](http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/std)**

## What is the test like?

**Because it is rare and hard to identify, you may need more than one test to find out if you have the virus.**

A doctor or nurse will usually wipe the area with a small swab



and they may take a sample of your blood



and they may ask you for a sample of urine.



## How is LGV treated?

It can be **cured** by taking pills called **antibiotics** that you get from your health care provider.



Be sure your partner(s) sees a health care provider and get treated at the same time so that you don't pass the infection back and forth. You should also be sure to follow your health care provider's advice and take all of the pills you are given even if you start to feel better.

## What can you do to protect yourself?

- You can choose not to have sex
- You can reduce your number of partners if you choose to have sex
- You can use condoms when you have sex
- You can talk with your partner(s) about STDs
- You can talk with your health care provider and get tested