

# Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Clinic

**Free confidential testing and treatment.**

**You must book a same-day appointment:**

- › **Phone: 902-473-2272**
- › **Mondays and Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m.**

**Stay healthy — know your status.**

# Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Clinic

## What is an STI?

An STI is an infection that is spread through sexual contact. Most infections can be treated very easily. If these infections are not treated, they can cause health problems for you later on.

## Common symptoms of STIs

Many people with an STI have few or no symptoms. Some symptoms that suggest you might have an STI include:

- › Discharge from your vagina or penis
- › Burning feeling when urinating (peeing)
- › Sores on your vulva, penis, or bum area
- › Itching around your vulva, penis, or bum area

## How do you test for STIs?

How we test for STIs depends on your symptoms and sexual history. Some of the tests we do include:

- › Urine (pee) tests
- › Genital swabs
- › Rectal (bum) swabs
- › Throat swabs
- › Pelvic exams
- › Blood tests

## How do you treat STIs?

This will depend on which STI we are treating. Treatment at the STI Clinic is free to everyone.

## STI Clinic

- The STI Clinic provides confidential services by health care providers who specialize in assessing and managing STIs.
- Walk-in appointments are not available. **You must call to make a SAME-DAY appointment for a self-collection kit or to see a health care provider.**

## How do I make an appointment?

- To make an appointment, call 902-473-2272 from 1 to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. The nurse will ask you a few questions to find out if you need to be seen and give you an appointment for that evening. **At this time, we are only booking SAME-DAY appointments.**
- You will get a confidential identification (ID) number when you come to the Clinic. Only Clinic staff can see your information.
- If your STI test is positive, we have to report it to Public Health for statistical (record keeping) purposes. Your personal information is kept confidential.

## **What if I just want to be screened for STIs?**

If you just want to be screened for STIs and do not need to see a health care provider for any concerns, you can book an appointment to pick up a pre-labelled collection kit and take your own samples. Your blood can be collected onsite for HIV and syphilis testing.

## **Where is the STI Clinic?**

5th Floor - Dickson Building, QE II  
5820 University Avenue  
Halifax, NS

- Enter through the main entrance of the Dickson Building, then take the elevator to the 5th floor. Turn right off the elevator and we are the desk right in front of you.

## **When is the Clinic open?**

- The STI Clinic is open on Mondays and Thursdays, except holidays. You can call for a same-day appointment from 1 to 3 p.m.
- Appointments are held from 5 to 8 p.m.

- Although we would like to see every person who calls the Clinic, there is a maximum number of people we can see each day.
- If you cannot get an appointment, we encourage you to call another day. You can also go to the following places for testing:
  - › **Halifax Sexual Health Centre**
  - › 7071 Bayers Road, Suite 302
  - › Phone: 902-455-9656

**OR**

- › Your primary health care provider

## **What should I expect at the STI Clinic?**

- **Arrival**
  - › When you arrive for your scheduled appointment, check in with the registration clerk. They will let the Clinic know you have arrived.
  - › If you just want to be screened for STIs and do not need to see a health care provider for any concerns, you can pick up a pre-labelled collection kit and take your own samples. We will give you instructions on how to do this.
- **Registration**
  - › Have your NS health card ready. We use the card to create your confidential ID number.

- **Meet with a health care provider**
  - › We will take you to the clinic area when a health care provider is ready to see you. They will talk with you about your history and which tests you need.
- **Testing**
  - › The health care provider will do any needed tests with you or tell you how to do them.
- **Results**
  - › You will get a card with your confidential ID number.
  - › If the results are negative, you will not be contacted.
  - › If the results are positive, we will contact you to let you know within 7 to 14 days (1 to 2 weeks).
  - › If you have any concerns, please call during the hours listed on the Clinic card.

**What are your questions?**

**Please ask a member of your health care team. We are here to help you.**

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here:  
<https://library.nshealth.ca/Patients-Guides>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:  
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

*Prepared by:* STI Clinic, QE II, Halifax  
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