

## Task Force Issues Draft Recommendation Statement on Screening for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea

*Screen all sexually active women age 24 and younger, age 25 and older at increased risk*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – March 2, 2021 – The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) today posted a draft recommendation statement on screening for chlamydia and gonorrhea. The Task Force recommends screening all sexually active women and pregnant people age 24 years and younger for chlamydia and gonorrhea. Screening is also recommended for women and pregnant people age 25 years and older who are at increased risk for infection. **These are B recommendations.** The Task Force concludes that there is not enough evidence to recommend for or against screening for these infections in men. **This is an I statement.**

### Grades in this recommendation:

- B:** Recommended.
- I:** The balance of benefits and harms cannot be determined.

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This draft recommendation applies to all sexually active adolescents and adults, including pregnant people, who do not have signs or symptoms of chlamydia or gonorrhea.

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are sexually transmitted infections (STIs) passed from one person to another through unprotected sexual contact. These infections often do not cause symptoms and, if left untreated, can lead to serious complications, including pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy, infertility, and chronic pelvic pain. Screening can help identify chlamydia and gonorrhea in people without symptoms so they can get the treatment they need.

“Chlamydia and gonorrhea are among the most common sexually transmitted infections in the U.S.,” says Task Force member Martha Kubik, Ph.D., R.N. “People with these infections often don’t have symptoms, so screening is important to help prevent serious health complications.”

Age is one of the most important risk factors for these infections, with the highest rates of infection among adolescents and young adults. Other risk factors include new or multiple sex partners, not using condoms consistently when not in a mutually monogamous relationship, or having a previous or existing STI.

“To reduce the risk of health complications from chlamydia and gonorrhea, the Task Force recommends screening for these infections in sexually active women and pregnant people 24 years and younger, or 25 years and older if at increased risk,” says Task Force chair Alex Krist, M.D., M.P.H. “More research is needed on the benefits and harms of screening men.”

Anyone who is concerned about STIs or their overall sexual health should talk with their healthcare provider.

The Task Force’s draft recommendation statement and draft evidence review have been posted for public comment on the Task Force website at [www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org). Comments can be submitted from March 2, 2021, to March 29, 2021, at [www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/tfcomment.htm](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/tfcomment.htm).

The Task Force is an independent, volunteer panel of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine that works to improve the health of all Americans by making evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services such as screenings, counseling services, and preventive medications.

Dr. Kubik is a professor and director of the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services at George Mason University. Dr. Kubik is a nurse scientist, active researcher, and past standing member on the National Institutes of Health's Community-Level Health Promotion Study Section. Dr. Kubik is an advanced practice nurse and fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Dr. Krist is a professor of family medicine and population health at Virginia Commonwealth University and an active clinician and teacher at the Fairfax Family Practice Residency. He is director of the Virginia Ambulatory Care Outcomes Research Network and director of community-engaged research at the VCU Wright Center.

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