

Molluscum Contagiosum

What Is Molluscum?

- Molluscum is a skin infection caused by a poxvirus.

How Do I Get Molluscum?

You can get Molluscum from an infected person by:

- Sexual contact.
- Skin to skin contact.
- Sharing hot tubs, gym equipment, wet towels or tanning beds.
- Molluscum usually appear 1 to 3 months after you are exposed and can last for 6 months to 2 years.

How Do I Know If I Have Molluscum?

- Molluscum are small smooth hard bumps with a pearly-white, dimpled centre.
- The bumps have a waxy centre.
- You can have one or a group of bumps anywhere on the body, but they are usually around the groin area, thighs or lower stomach.
- Molluscum are not genital warts.
- Molluscum bumps can become infected, and can spread if you squeeze or scratch the bumps or shave the area.

How Do I Get Tested?

- Go to your family doctor, STD or Family Planning Clinic if you notice unusual bumps, especially around the genitals.

How Do I Treat Molluscum?

- Molluscum can be removed by a doctor with a small instrument called a "curette".
- Molluscum can be treated with liquid nitrogen that is applied to the bump(s).

How Can I Prevent Molluscum From Spreading?

- Abstinence (not having sex) may be your best choice.
- Practice "**Safer Sex**". Always use condoms!
- Have no sexual or skin contact with someone if you notice bumps around their or your own genital area.
- If you think that you have been infected, get checked out.
- Limit the number of sexual partners you have.
- Always discuss sexual history with your partner.
- Get education, guidance and support



For More Information Call:

Sexual and Reproductive Health **944-7115**

Family Planning Clinics

- **Downtown** **323-7th Ave SE** **944-7111**
- **South** **31 Sunpark Plaza SE** **943-9510**
- **Sunridge** **406, 2675-36 Street NE** **944-7666**

STD Clinic **404, 906-8th Ave SW** **944-7575**