Chlamydia (kla-MID-ee-a) is a sexually transmitted disease (STD). It is spread from person to person through sexual contact. Chlamydia is very common among sexually active teens.

Some people who are infected with chlamydia have symptoms and others do not. Guys with symptoms may have a clear or milky discharge from the penis and may have burning with urination. Girls with symptoms may have a vaginal discharge, vaginal discomfort, and/or burning with urination. Those who practice rectal sex may have rectal discomfort or discharge.

Once chlamydia has been diagnosed, it can be treated easily with antibiotics. A person should not have sexual intercourse while taking antibiotics or for seven days after finishing the antibiotics. **Anyone treated for chlamydia should tell their sexual partners that they could also be infected and may need to be treated.** If sexual partners are not seen by a doctor and treated, they can continue to spread the infection. A person may be infected with chlamydia more than once.

The most serious problems with chlamydia occur when the bacteria moves from a girl’s vagina up into her uterus, tubes, and ovaries. This usually causes severe abdominal (belly) pain, fever, nausea, or vomiting. This severe infection is called pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and can require hospitalization. PID can damage a girl’s tubes and ovaries so that she may have problems getting pregnant later. Some girls also experience long-term pelvic pain.

The *only* way to keep you safe from sexually transmitted diseases is to *not* participate in sexual intercourse. If you do decide that you are going to be sexually active, use a condom *every* time you have sex to prevent the spread of infections. See your health care provider for routine checkups to make sure you are disease-free.

**For more information about chlamydia or other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), call your health care provider or the Children’s Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188.**