

# GONORRHEA

- A. Causative agent:** *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.
- B. Usual sources and routes of infection:** Humans are the reservoir. Transmission occurs by contact with infected mucous membranes and is almost always sexual. Gonorrhea is considered a possible indicator of sexual abuse in children older than 1 year.
- C. Incubation period:** Usually 2 to 7 days, may be longer.
- D. Period of communicability:** Months without treatment, hours after treatment.
- E. Investigation of a reported case:**

**Form(s):** See Appendix A, Investigation and Report Forms by Disease or Condition.

**Investigation should include:**

1. Completion and mailing of the "Idaho Confidential Sexually Transmitted Disease Report" within one week. Submit the white copy.
2. Completion and mailing, faxing, or secure electronic upload of the Idaho STD/HIV Investigation Form (See Section 6: Investigation Forms) according to instructions within one week of notification of the case. Submitting this form is a requirement of the STD/HIV Prevention Contract. High priority infections include:
  - Gonorrhea in a person with a prior reportable STD within the past year
  - Gonorrhea diagnosed at a HRSA-funded HIV medical care provider
  - Gonorrhea diagnosed at a District Health Department clinic

The Idaho STD/HIV Investigation Form should be completed within one week from date initiated and forwarded to OEFI. Interview and contact tracing of cases determined to be high priority should be done using applicable CDC guidelines, which may be found in the CDC *Recommendations for Partner Services Programs for HIV Infection, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydial Infection*, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr57e1030.pdf>. In addition, training and resources are available. Please contact the OEFI Epidemiology Program for available resource material and courses.

3. Contact/partner investigations: The interview period for gonorrhea is 60 days prior to onset of symptoms or 60 days prior to treatment, if asymptomatic. If the patient claims no sex partners in this period, the most recent partner before the interview period should be elicited and notified. Interview periods may be modified if a history of symptoms, a negative test result, or incidental treatment is documented.

The Idaho STD/HIV Investigation Form should be initiated on all sexual partners and other contacts to be investigated based on interviews of high priority cases. Each contact should be listed, and ultimately, a disposition posted on the form.

