

# Communicable Disease and Sexually Transmitted Infections

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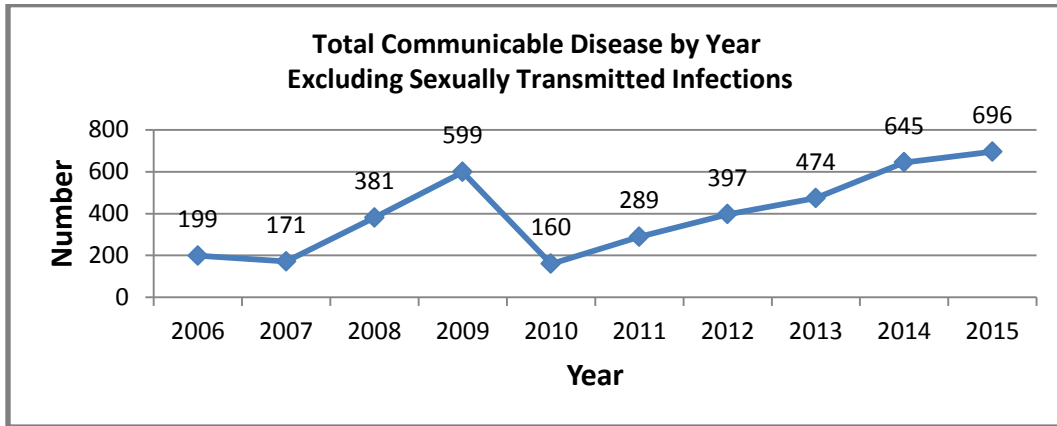
Provider Update, 2016

Kristen Bloom, BSN

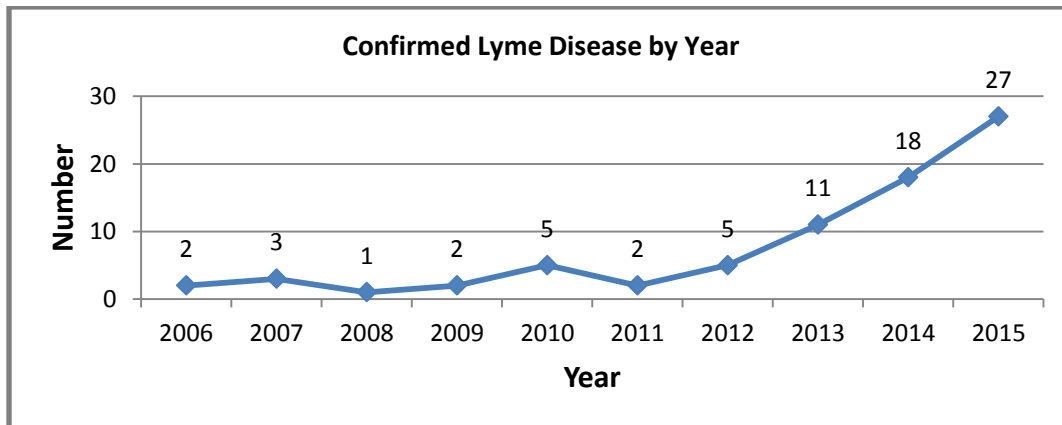
6/1/2016

Communicable and sexually transmissible Infection update for healthcare providers shares the incidences of diagnoses, screening, and treatment recommendations.

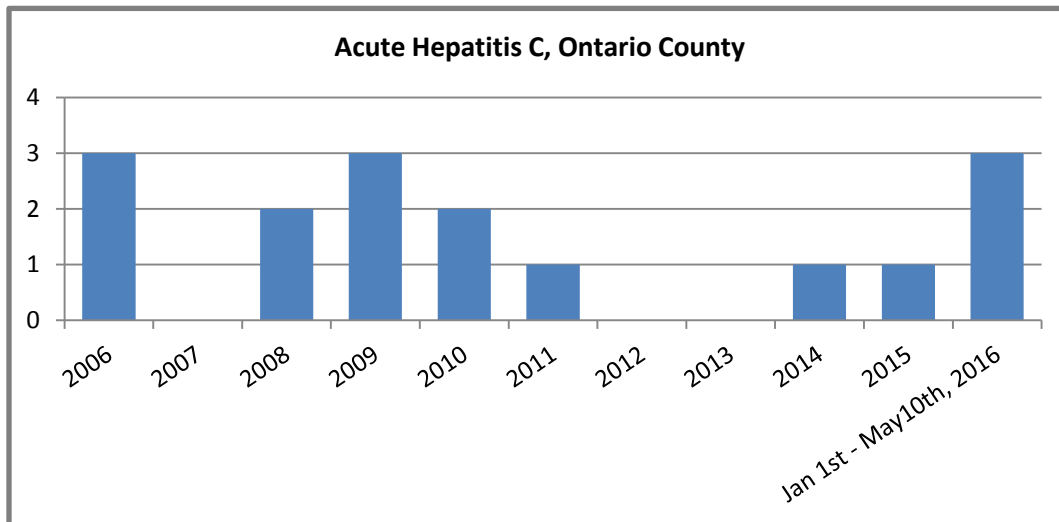
## Communicable Disease in Ontario County



New York Public Health Law requires healthcare providers and laboratorians report certain diseases to the local health department (LHD). A current list of reportable diseases is included with this update. Investigations by the LHD vary by disease and may include communication with the medical provider, hospital and/or the affected individual. In some cases, the LHD tries to identify the source of infection and prevent additional cases. An increase in disease reports involving the same pathogen may indicate an outbreak and require additional public health actions. Education is an important part of every investigation.



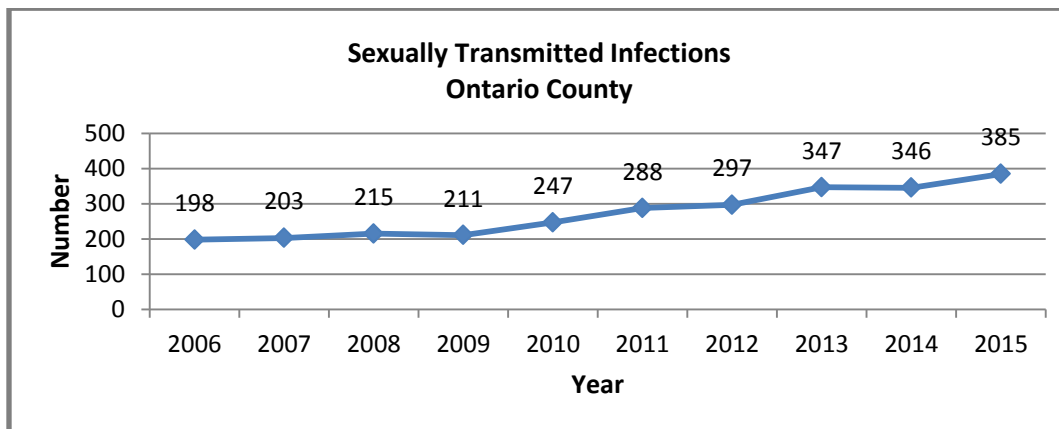
Lyme disease (LD) is reportable in New York State. In 2015, Public Health staff investigated fifty-one reports of Lyme disease. LHD staff confirmed twenty-seven cases using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) case definition. Twenty-four could not be confirmed because they did not meet lab-testing criteria even though symptoms of Lyme disease were documented. Between 2014 and 2015 the number of LD case investigations more than doubled: 24 in 2014 and 51 in 2015.



The number of cases of acute Hepatitis C infections in Ontario County is rising. We have confirmed three cases in 2016, not having met the mid-year mark. This may reflect increased IV heroin use in the community. Since 1993, 653 cases of chronic hepatitis C have been reported in Ontario County.

**NOTE:** A small percentage of individuals clear the hepatitis C virus without treatment, but remain antibody positive. It is impossible to confirm hepatitis C infection status without HCV RNA testing. **Appropriate testing for hepatitis C includes screening for anti-HCV (antibody to hepatitis C virus) with reflex to the HCV RNA test (aka, NAAT), if positive.**

### Sexually Transmitted Infections in Ontario County



Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis are reportable to the local health department. Rates continue to rise. When STI's are reported to the health department, investigation staff communicates with the medical provider to confirm treatment. The NYSDOH assists with partner notification for gonorrhea and syphilis and when requested by the physician, chlamydia. Public Health must

provide STI services for those with financial and other barriers. The health department contracts with Planned Parenthood and Finger Lakes Community Health to provide these services.

## Chlamydia

Chlamydia remains the most frequently reported sexually transmitted infection in the United States. It is common in 15-24 year olds, particularly those with new or multiple sex partners, who do not use condoms, consistently. The majority of infected people have no symptoms. Left untreated chlamydia can lead to serious reproductive complications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends annual testing of,

1. Sexually active women younger than age 25
2. Women of any age with risk factors for chlamydial infections
3. All pregnant women

### Recommended Treatment (CDC)

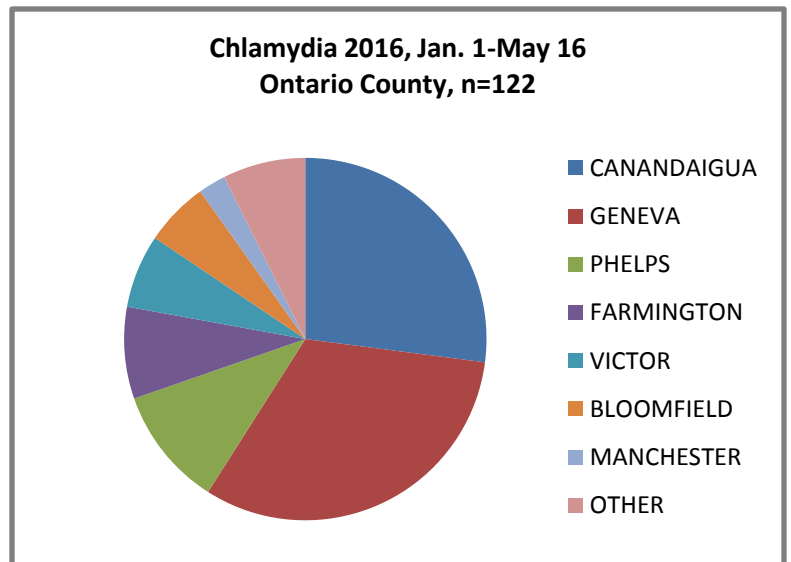
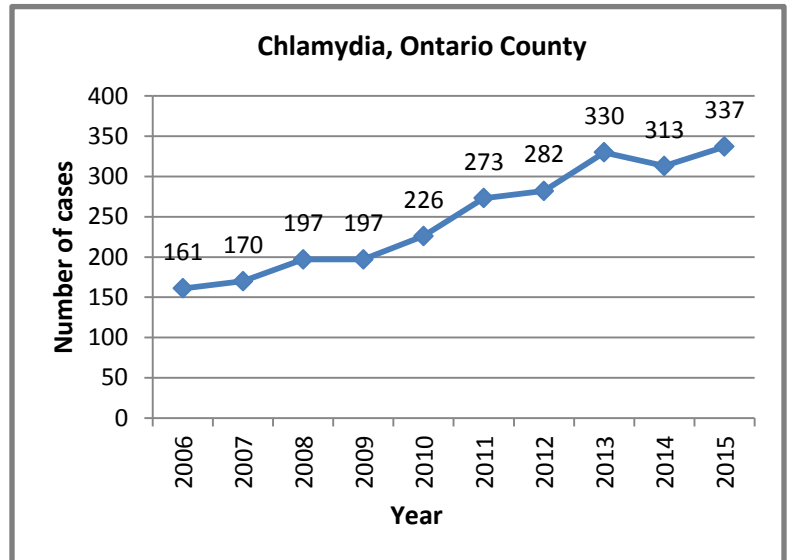
**Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose  
OR Doxycycline 100 mg orally twice a day for 7 days**

For complete treatment treatment guidelines, see:

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/chlamydia.htm>.

### Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) for Chlamydial Infections

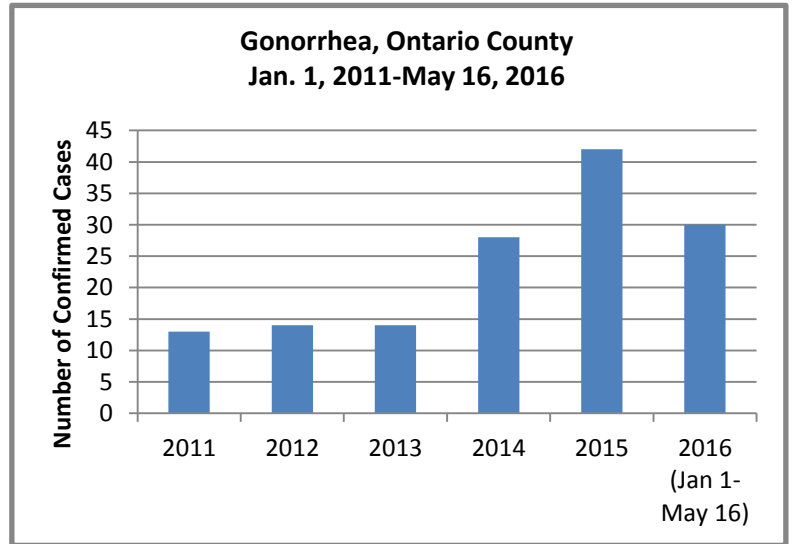
In New York State, healthcare providers are encouraged to provide treatment of sexual partners via expedited partner therapy. This can be accomplished with or without demographic information for the partner(s) and is exempt from electronic prescribing laws in NY State. For more information see, <http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/3849/index.htm>. Please consider utilizing EPT when a patient tests positive for chlamydia.



# Gonorrhea

## Gonorrhea Facts

- Gonococcal infections are increasing in Ontario County.
- During the first quarter of 2016, there were more cases than in 2011, 2012 and 2013.
- Between 2011 and 2015, gonorrhea cases increased 223%.
- Mean age of infections in both 2015 and 2016 (YTD) is 30 years.
- In 2015 and 2016, females have accounted for 62% and 70% of cases respectively.



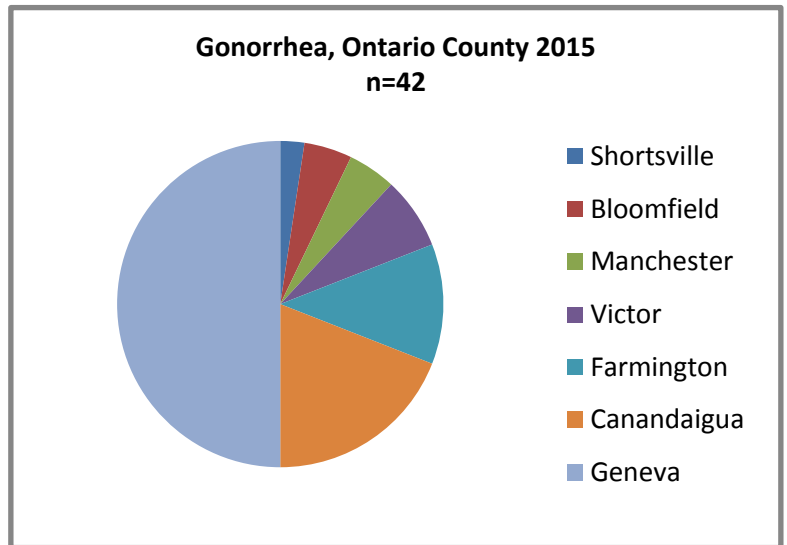
## Recommendations

Continue to have a low threshold of suspicion for gonococcal infection and report confirmed cases to the local health department. Notify patients the NYSDOH will be calling to assist with partner notification. Do not treat with cephalosporins due to evolving resistance.

## Recommended Treatment (CDC)

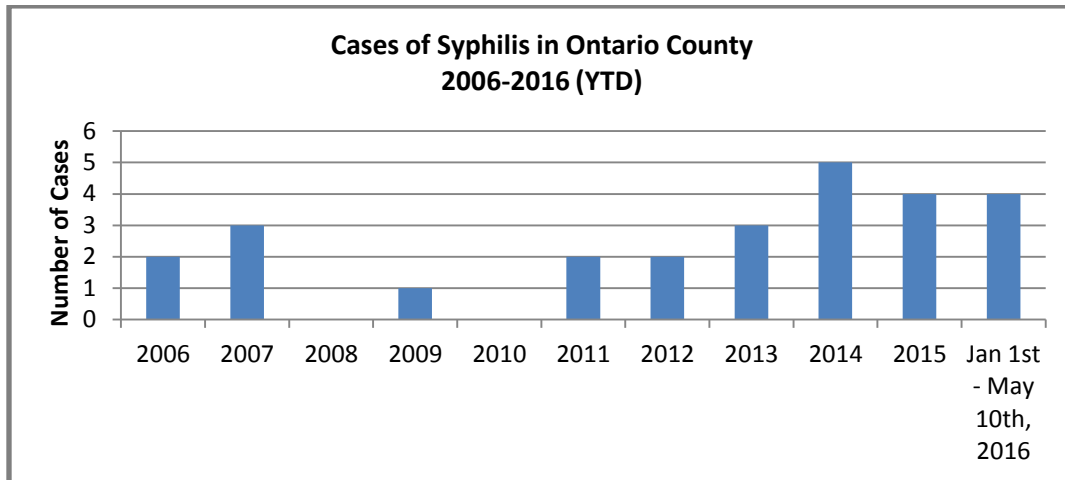
Uncomplicated Gonococcal Infections of the Cervix, Urethra and Rectum

**Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose AND Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose**



For complete treatment guidelines, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/gonorrhea.htm>.

# Syphilis



Syphilis cases are more frequent in recent years, particularly among men who have sex with men. In 2016 we have already matched last year’s number of cases, as of May 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Recommendations

Have a low threshold of suspicion for syphilis infection and report suspected cases to the local health department. Notify patients the NYSDOH will be calling to assist with partner notification.

## Lab Testing

Syphilis occurs in stages and can be difficult to diagnose. Symptoms often resemble other conditions. Testing should include **all** of the following,

1. **RPR (rapid plasma regain)**
2. **TPPA (Treponema pallidum particle agglutination assay), and**
3. **T pallidum IgG**

Women who are pregnant and at high risk for syphilis should be tested more than once during pregnancy.

## Recommended Treatment

Treatment of syphilis varies depending on stage.

For diagnostic and treatment information, see the CDC’s 2015 STD guidelines at, <http://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/syphilis.htm>.

For an electronic version of this document or to print in color-visit our website at, <http://www.co.ontario.ny.us/DocumentCenter/View/7563>.