

Office of the
Chief Medical
Health Officer

February 9, 2016

GetCheckedOnline: a new way to test for sexually transmitted infections on Vancouver Island

GetCheckedOnline (GCO) is an internet-based testing service for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, HIV, and hepatitis C run by the BCCDC, in partnership with Island Health. It is intended to help overcome barriers to accessing clinic-based testing, and as a complement to these regular STI testing services. GCO is being piloted at three participating LifeLabs in Victoria, Langford, and Duncan beginning February 2016. GCO has operated since September 2014, following consultation with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia (CPSBC) and sexual health clinicians. In the first 16 months of operation, 387 patients in the Lower Mainland tested through GCO, of which eight (2%) had a positive result.

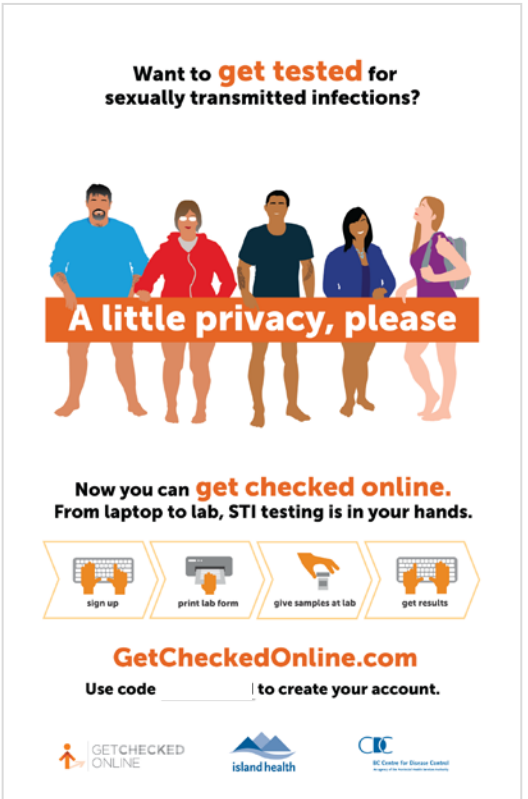
How does GetCheckedOnline work?

To test through GCO, a patient obtains a promotional code, visits getcheckedonline.com, creates an account, completes a sexual risk assessment questionnaire, and receives specific recommended tests and educational messages based on their responses. The patient then prints their laboratory requisition and visits a participating LifeLabs to provide specimens (urine, blood, and/or throat or rectal swabs). Negative results can be viewed online while positive results will be delivered over the phone by a BCCDC nurse.

Implications for practice

The Physician Lead for the Provincial STI/HIV Program at the BCCDC, Dr. Troy Grennan, is the ordering provider for all GCO tests. As such, the BCCDC has primary responsibility for notification and follow-up of positive diagnoses, while responsibility for contact tracing and provision of additional supports is shared with the Island Health Communicable Disease Program. The BCCDC nurse will arrange for treatment and care for the patient at a partnering clinic, or the patient can choose to see their family physician. If your patient needs further assistance with contact tracing, please contact your local Island Health Communicable Disease unit.

Testing through GCO is non-nominal; therefore patients presenting for treatment of diagnosed STIs may not have a lab result with their name or PHN on it. Patients should be treated the same as STI contacts or individuals presenting with a diagnosed STI with no documentation. It is recommended patients be treated and not to re-test. Provincial STI physicians and nurses at the BCCDC clinic are available to confirm the diagnosis or advise on treatment if needed.



Want to **get tested** for sexually transmitted infections?

A little privacy, please

Now you can **get checked online**.
From laptop to lab, STI testing is in your hands.

GetCheckedOnline.com
Use code [] to create your account.

GETCHECKED ONLINE | island health | BC Centre for Disease Control

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For more information on GetCheckedOnline

Information about GetCheckedOnline is available on the “For Health Providers” section on the GCO website (getcheckedonline.com/healthproviders). For questions related to clinical aspects of GCO, please contact the STI/HIV Physician Lead at the BCCDC (604-707-5606; troy.grennan@bccdc.ca). For questions related to the operation of GCO, please contact the Island Health Project Lead (250-519-3417; kendra.jones@viha.ca).

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