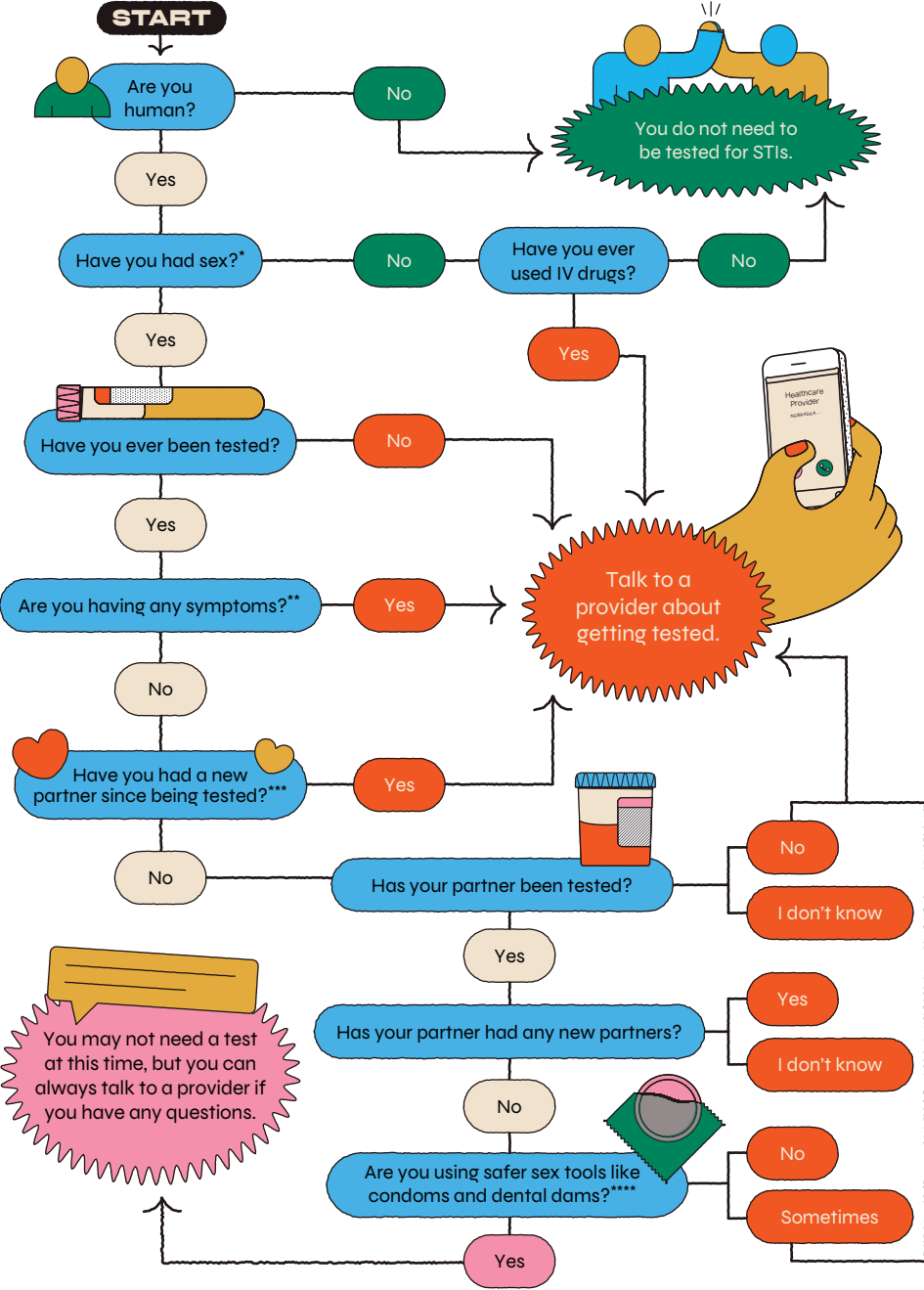


SHOULD I GET TESTED FOR AN STI?



*Sex refers to any type of sexual contact, including oral, anal, and vaginal sex. STIs can be spread whether or not penetration occurs.

***It's common for people to test positive even when they had no signs or symptoms. The only way to know for sure is to get tested.

****Partner refers to anyone with whom you have had sexual contact.

****That's great! Prevention tools can greatly reduce the risk of getting or giving an STI. However, many people don't use condoms 100% of the time, and even if they do, there are some STIs that can be spread even if you used protection.

STIs are common.

STI stands for Sexually Transmitted Infection. You may have also heard them called STDs, or Sexually Transmitted Diseases. These are common infections of the sexual and reproductive organs that can be spread through any type of sexual activity, including oral, anal, or vaginal sex.

STIs aren't spread through common, everyday contact.

You can't get an STI from a toilet seat, no matter how dirty it might be. STIs also are not spread through urine, saliva, shaking hands, hugging, or casual, everyday contact.

Most STIs have no symptoms.

It's common for someone to have no signs of an STI and still test positive. The only way to know for sure is to get tested. If someone does have symptoms, they might include discharge, burning or pain with urination, pelvic pain, changes to periods or menstruation, sores, warts, or rashes.

All STIs are treatable, and many are curable.

Many STIs are easily cured with antibiotics, such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, and trichomoniasis. Viral STIs like HIV and genital herpes are not curable, but there is treatment that can help people stay healthy and reduce the likelihood of passing these viruses to their sexual partners.

Without treatment, STIs can cause serious problems

When left untreated, STIs like chlamydia and gonorrhea can do damage to the reproductive organs and harm future fertility. Some can hurt the body in other ways. For instance, syphilis is a bacterial infection that can cause serious, irreversible nerve damage and eventually death if left untreated. Another common STI, human papillomavirus, is the leading cause of cervical cancer. During pregnancy, STIs can also be dangerous to the baby. Some can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, and other complications.

Free or low-cost confidential testing is available

Testing is usually covered by insurance and Medicaid, and the clinics [here](#) offer testing at discounted rates, with fees based on the patient's income. In some cases, testing may even be offered free of charge.



IN CONTROL.



**REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH
COLLABORATIVE**
NEBRASKA