



Client Health Checks



What are they?

A visual check for any visible symptoms of STIs that sex workers conduct with their client prior to service provision.

Why do it?

To identify any signs of STIs prior to a service so that you can take appropriate steps to reduce the likelihood of STI transmission (including cancelling the booking if needed).

How to conduct a health check.

Do a client health check **BEFORE** they shower or go to the toilet (so symptoms can't be washed away).

- Find some good lighting (use a torch or your phone light).
- Look around the client's whole pubic area, through the hair, along the base, shaft and tip of the penis (pull back foreskin if present), or along the outer and inner lips of the vulva for;
 - **Signs of infection: redness, swelling, oozing, discharge or a bad smell.**
 - **Sores, rashes, blisters, and warts.**
- Make sure to check under the balls and around the anus.
- Look inside the client's mouth for any sores if offering kissing or oral on you.

To familiarise yourself with what STIs can look like, read through the [Scarlet Alliance Red Book](#).

What if the client says no or makes a fuss?

You can let your client know health checks are standard procedure and most sex workers do them with every client. You can reassure them it's because you take your sexual health seriously.

What if I think my client has an STI

Let them know, and encourage them to have an STI check up.

You can cancel the booking with the client, or you can offer an alternate service depending on what symptoms they have (e.g. offering hand relief with a glove).

What if I'm unsure?

Ask for help! It's common for venue-based sex workers to ask a colleague for a second opinion. If this isn't an option for you, trust your gut or ask the client to wait while you consult the [Red Book](#).