# SYPHILIS

**Syphilis rates in Tennessee are rising.**
**How can you protect yourself?**

## WHAT IS SYPHILIS?

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) and you can get it by having sex (oral, anal, or vaginal) with someone who has syphilis.

Syphilis can affect anyone who has unprotected sex, regardless of gender or orientation.

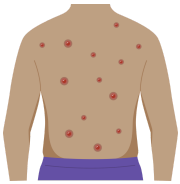
## HOW IS SYPHILIS PREVENTED?

Use condoms every time you have sex: vaginal, anal, or oral.

You and your partner(s) should also get regularly tested for STIs.

## COMMON SIGNS & SYMPTOMS*

- Small sores on genitals, bottom, or mouth
- Rash on your chest, back, palms, and feet
- Flu-like symptoms
- And more.



*Symptoms change as time goes on, and some people may not notice any symptoms, so it's best to regularly get tested for STIs.

Testing and treatment are confidential!

Scan to locate a health department near you!

# HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE SYPHILIS?

The only way to know if you have syphilis is a blood test.

If you are sexually active, you should be tested for syphilis.

Health departments can confidentially test you and your partner(s) any time for syphilis, at little or no cost!

# CAN SYPHILIS BE TREATED?

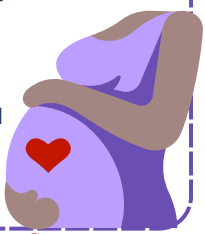
**YES!** Syphilis is curable with antibiotics.

- You can get syphilis again if you are re-exposed to syphilis.
- To prevent re-exposure, it is important that all partners are tested and treated promptly.
- Your local health department can help notify your partner(s) anonymously, test, and treat them for little to no cost.

# SYPHILIS AND PREGNANCY

**If you are pregnant, can become pregnant, or are partnered to someone who is pregnant, getting tested for syphilis is very important.**

Syphilis can be passed to your unborn baby and cause serious health problems if not prevented. Talk to your provider or your local health department about testing and treatment.



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