



SYPHILIS & CONGENITAL SYPHILIS

Syphilis and congenital syphilis rates in Tennessee are rising.
How can you protect yourself and your baby?

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.



WHAT IS CONGENITAL SYPHILIS?

When syphilis is passed from a pregnant person to their baby, it's known as congenital syphilis (CS).

If you are pregnant, you should be tested at the first and third trimester of your pregnancy.

CS CAN CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS FOR YOUR BABY LIKE:

- Being born too early or too small
- Death before or after birth
- Skin, bone, and joint damage
- Developmental delays
- Brain damage causing seizures
- Lifelong problems with eyes, ears, and teeth



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.

CAN SYPHILIS BE TREATED?

YES! Syphilis is treatable and curable with antibiotics.

- In order to prevent a baby being born with CS, **the pregnant person must receive treatment at least 30 days before delivery.**
- Your local health department can help notify your partner(s) anonymously so they can get tested and treated.



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Testing and treatment are confidential!

Scan to locate a health department near you!