

# WHAT IS SYPHILIS?

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



# HOW CAN I PREVENT SYPHILIS?

Use condoms every time you have sex.

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

It's possible to get syphilis again if re-exposed or if all partners are not treated.



# SYPHILIS & CONGENITAL SYPHILIS

# WHAT IS CONGENITAL SYPHILIS (CS)?



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

Having prenatal care decreases the chance of a baby being born with syphilis. Talk to your provider about testing and treatment.



**Locate a health department near you!**



**Learn more about syphilis and congenital syphilis from the CDC.**



**Syphilis**



**Congenital Syphilis**

**Syphilis and congenital syphilis rates in Tennessee are rising.**

*How can you protect yourself and your baby?*

## HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE SYPHILIS?

The only way to know for sure is a simple blood test.

If you are sexually active, you should be tested for syphilis. Syphilis can affect anyone who has unprotected sex, regardless of gender or orientation.

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

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



Scan to locate a health department near you!

## HOW CAN I SPOT SYPHILIS?

Symptoms change with each stage of syphilis, and there may be overlap. Some people may not notice any symptoms, so it's best to regularly get tested for STIs.

Even if symptoms go away, syphilis is still causing damage to your body and your baby's body.



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## COMMON SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

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



## CONGENITAL SYPHILIS 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

## CAN SYPHILIS BE TREATED?

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

In order to prevent a baby being born with congenital syphilis, 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.