

# Syphilis

## What you should know



### Syphilis is a bacterial sexually transmitted disease (STD).

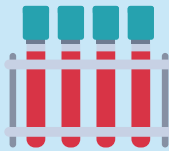


It spreads through oral, vaginal or anal sex. Anyone who has sex with a person who has syphilis can get it.



A pregnant person who has syphilis can pass it to their baby.

A blood test from a healthcare provider is the only way to know if you have syphilis.



The right medicine from a healthcare provider can cure syphilis.



### A surge in syphilis infections is happening in Washington County and in the United States.

Between 2020 and 2022 there was a 136% jump in all-stage syphilis cases in Washington County.

More and more babies are born with syphilis each year.

### If you get treatment for syphilis, all your sex partners must get treatment at the same time, too.



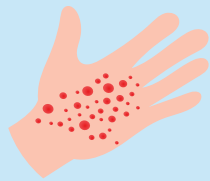
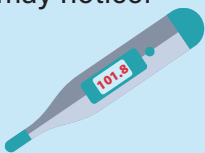
Follow instructions for how long to not have sex after treatment.



If you get treatment for syphilis and it goes away, you can get it again if you have sex with a person who has syphilis.

### Many people who have syphilis do not notice symptoms.

Some may notice:



- Swollen lymph nodes.
- Fever.
- Muscle or joint pain.
- Changes to vision or hearing.
- Hair loss, rashes, open sores or wart-like bumps on genitals. Will go away, even without treatment.

### Without treatment, syphilis can cause serious health problems, even death.



### Talk to Your Healthcare Provider about Testing

For more information on partner clinics, visit our webpage.



Find more about syphilis and other STDs at [cdc.gov/std](https://www.cdc.gov/std).

*Adapted with permission from Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. January 2025*

# Congenital Syphilis

## What you should know

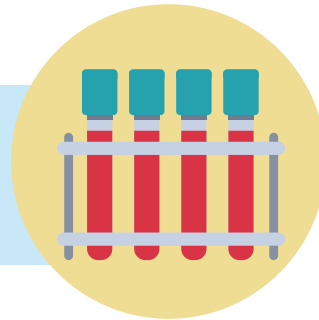


### **Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD).**

Anyone who has sex—vaginal, anal or oral—can get it.

### **It can be hard to tell if you have syphilis.**

The only way to know for sure is to get tested.



### **As soon as you know you're pregnant, go to a healthcare provider.**

They will test you for syphilis.

If you test positive, they will treat you.

Getting treated can prevent you from giving syphilis to your baby.



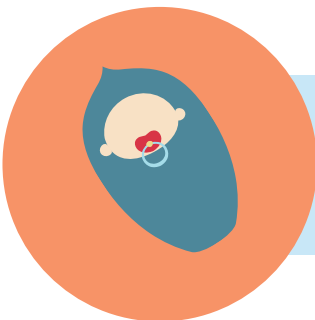
### **If you test positive, get treated right away.**

Treatment is usually 1 dose of antibiotics. Your sex partners should get treated, too.



### **A pregnant person can give syphilis to their baby.**

Syphilis in a baby is called congenital syphilis.



### **Babies born with syphilis must be treated in a hospital right away.**

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