

# Reduce your risk of getting syphilis



Cook County DEPT OF  
Public Health

**BUILDING**  
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It's possible to get syphilis and not know it.

## Syphilis is treatable with antibiotics.

Congenital syphilis can have major health impacts on your baby.

*The only way to completely avoid sexually transmitted infections, including syphilis, is to not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex.*

### **If you are sexually active, you can do the following things to lower your chances of getting syphilis:**

- Being in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested for syphilis and does not have syphilis.
- Using condoms the right way every time you have sex. Condoms prevent the spread of syphilis by preventing contact with sores. Sometimes sores occur in areas not covered by a condom.
- Getting tested for syphilis. If you test positive for syphilis, you and your partner(s) will need treatment right away. Follow-up with your healthcare provider to make sure your treatment is successful.



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