

About syphilis testing



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.

Testing and treatment during pregnancy can prevent congenital syphilis, a common and treatable sexually transmitted infection (STI).

- Even if you were tested before, you should get tested for syphilis again when you become pregnant and again in the third trimester to make sure you don't pass it to your baby.
- You may have symptoms that mimic other illnesses or you may not have symptoms at all.
- See your healthcare provider for prenatal care and to get tested as soon as possible.
- You may also search for STI testing sites on the CDC Get Tested website at [gettested.cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/gettested).



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Talk with your provider about syphilis testing



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In Illinois, your provider is REQUIRED by law to test you for syphilis at your first prenatal visit and again in your third trimester.

At your first healthcare visit, ask your provider about getting tested for syphilis.

At this visit, you can discuss:

- Any new or unusual physical symptoms
- Any drugs or medicines you are using
- New or multiple sex partners
- The risk for syphilis in your community

If you test positive for syphilis, you will need treatment right away. It is also important that your sex partner(s) get treated. Follow-up with your healthcare provider to make sure your treatment was successful.



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Reduce your risk of getting syphilis



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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:

- Be in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested for syphilis and does not have syphilis.
- Use 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.
- Get 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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