

*If you think
you may be
infected . . .*

GET TESTED!

Syphilis

*Just the
Facts*

...

If you do not have a local
doctor, where can you go
for help?

**For STD Clinic
Referrals Call:**

1-800-232-4636

TTY:

1-888-232-6348

**(In English, and
en Español)**

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Syphilis

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease caused by a bacteria known as *Treponema pallidum*.

🦠 Syphilis progresses in stages. The first symptoms of Syphilis, a painless open sore (or chancre), may go undetected because they are very mild and disappear without treatment.

🦠 *The disappearance of symptoms does not mean that the disease is cured.* The person who is infected with Syphilis still requires proper treatment and can transmit the disease to other sexual partners.

🦠 The painless sore usually occurs around or in the vagina in a woman (or in the male, on the penis). It can, however, also be found on or in the mouth, the anus (butt hole), or on the hands

🦠 Syphilis is curable, and when successfully treated at an early stage, can prevent further progression of the disease.

🦠 Syphilis is treated with antibiotics, mainly penicillin.

If left untreated, Syphilis can cause serious health problems.

6,103 new cases of Syphilis were reported in America during 2001.

This is the first increase in the number of people infected with the disease since 1990.

🦠 The most common way to become infected with syphilis is through sexual intercourse (either oral, vaginal or anal penetration).

🦠 While the syphilis sore can occur on any part of the body, but is usually found on the external or internal portions of the genitals (private parts), vagina, anus or in the rectum. If transmitted through oral sexual activity, the sore can also be found on the lips or in the mouth of an infected person.

🦠 Pregnant women who have syphilis can pass the infection to their unborn child during pregnancy or delivery.

IF YOU ARE PREGNANT, PROTECT YOUR UNBORN CHILD.

- Take a simple, confidential blood test to determine if you have been infected with Syphilis.
- If you test positive for Syphilis, drug treatments are available that can reduce the risk of transmitting Syphilis to your unborn child.

How can i protect myself from getting syphilis? Although not engaging in type of sexual behavior (total abstinence) is one sure way of preventing you from being exposed to syphilis, for most people, this is not an acceptable alternative. For sexually active men and women, some of the best preventative measures to use in protecting yourself from being exposed to syphilis during sexual activity would include:

🦠 Limit the number of partners with whom you engage in sexual activity.

🦠 Proper use of a male or female latex condom. Remember, however, since the syphilis sore can be found on a part of the body that is not covered by the condom, it is possible to contract syphilis even if you faithfully use a condom.

*If you think you don't have to protect yourself from Syphilis, you are wrong
And you could be **dead** wrong.*

**Remember . . .
All STDs are preventable,
if the right precautions
are taken.**