

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

GET TESTED!

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)**

Syphilis

*Just the
Facts*
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Reprint Info: 1-877-287-8700

Syphilis

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

🦠 Syphilis progresses in stages. The first symptom of Syphilis, a painless open sore (or chancre), may go undetected because it can be 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 open sore usually occurs around or in the vagina in a woman (or in the male, on the penis). It can also, however, 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, further progression of the disease can be prevented.

🦠 Syphilis is treated with antibiotics, mainly penicillin.

If left untreated, Syphilis can cause serious health problems.

8,724 new cases of Syphilis were reported in America during 2005.

The rate of Syphilis infections was highest in women 20-24 years of age, and in men between the ages of 35-39 years.

🦠 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, it is usually found on the external or internal portions of the genitals (private parts), vagina, anus or in the rectum. If the Syphilis infection is 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 any type of sexual behavior (or 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.