

Syphilis

What Is Syphilis {SIF/ill/is}?

- Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a bacteria.

How Do I Get Syphilis?

- From vaginal, oral or anal sex with an infected person or direct contact with a syphilis sore.
- Condoms give some protection, but may not cover sores at the base of the penis, on the outside of the vagina or on the rectum.

How Do I Know If I Have Syphilis?

- The symptoms are the same for both males and females.
- Many people have **no** symptoms.

<i>Stages of Syphilis</i>		
Stage 1 (9-90 days after contact) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Painless sores (from pinpoint size to as large as a quarter) appear on the penis, in or around the vagina, in the mouth, in the rectum or on the breasts.• Sores disappear in 2-4 weeks but bacteria stays in the body. Very Contagious	Stage 2 (1-6 months after contact) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flu like symptoms, fever, fatigue, pain in your joints and muscles.• Painless rash on the hands, feet, or whole body.• Swollen lymph nodes.• Hair loss.• Symptoms may disappear but bacteria stay in the body. Very Contagious	Stage 3 (2-40 years after contact) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The bacteria may cause blindness, paralysis, deafness, brain and heart disease, and death.

How Do I Get Tested?

- A doctor will look at your sore or rash and a blood test will be done.
- The STD clinic also has a special microscope that helps diagnose a syphilis chancre (sore) while you wait.

How Do You Treat Syphilis?

- Syphilis can be cured if you take the right antibiotic.
- Tell your sexual partner(s) so that they can be treated.
- After treatment, don't have sexual contact until the syphilis sore is completely healed.

What If I Don't Treat The Infection?

- Syphilis may cause blindness, paralysis, deafness, brain and heart disease and eventually death.
- Pregnant women can pass the infection on to their babies. This can sometimes cause birth defects or death of the baby.

How Can I Prevent The Spread Of Syphilis?

- Abstinence (not having sex) may be your best choice.
- Practice “**Safer Sex**”. Always use condoms!
- If you think you have been infected with an STI, get checked out.
- Limit the number of sexual partners you have.
- Ask your partner about his/her sexual history.
- Avoid having sex with an infected person.
- Tell your partner if you have an infection.
- Get education, guidance and support.



For More Information Call:

Sexual and Reproductive Health **944-7115**

Family Planning Clinics

- **Downtown** **323-7th Ave SE** **944-7111**
- **South** **31 Sunpark Plaza SE** **943-9510**
- **Sunridge** **406, 2675-36 Street NE** **944-7666**

STD Clinic **404, 906-8th Ave SW** **944-7575**