



SYPHILIS

**Syphilis rates in Tennessee are rising.
How can you protect yourself?**

WHAT IS SYPHILIS?

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) and you can get it by having sex (oral, anal, or vaginal) with someone who has syphilis.

Syphilis can affect anyone who has unprotected sex, regardless of gender or orientation.

CAN SYPHILIS BE TREATED?

YES! Syphilis is treatable and curable with antibiotics.

- It's possible to get syphilis again if re-exposed or if all partners are not treated.
- Your local health department can help notify your partner(s) anonymously so they can get tested and treated.

COMMON SIGNS & SYMPTOMS*

- Small sores on genitals, bottom, or mouth
- Rash on your chest, back, palms, and feet
- Flu-like symptoms
- And more.

*Symptoms change as time goes on, and some people may not notice any symptoms, so it's best to regularly get tested for STIs.

Even if symptoms go away, syphilis is still in your body causing damage.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE SYPHILIS?

The only way to know for sure is a simple blood test.

If you are sexually active, you should be tested for syphilis.

Health departments can confidentially test you and your partner(s) any time for syphilis, at little or no cost!

SYPHILIS AND PREGNANCY

If you are pregnant, can become pregnant, or partnered to someone who is pregnant, getting tested for syphilis is very important. Syphilis can be passed to your unborn baby and cause serious health problems if not prevented. Talk to your provider or your local health department about testing and treatment.



Tennessee Department of Health Auth. No. 360030.
This public document was promulgated at \$0.81 per copy, 200 Copies. January 2023.

Testing and treatment are confidential!

Scan to locate a health department near you!

