

Facts About Syphilis



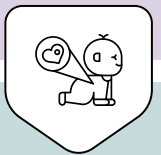
NL Health
Services

In the past 4 years, syphilis rates have **doubled**. You can help protect yourself and others by learning how it spreads, recognizing symptoms, and knowing where to get tested and treated.



Transmission (Spread)

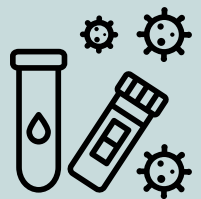
Syphilis is an infection that can spread through vaginal, anal, or oral sex, sharing sex toys, touching a syphilis sore or rash, and from a pregnant person to their baby during pregnancy or childbirth.



Symptoms

Syphilis is called "the great imitator" because its symptoms can look like other illnesses or might not show up at all. Even if you don't have symptoms, you can still spread syphilis.

When syphilis is passed from a pregnant person to their baby during pregnancy, it is called "congenital syphilis." The number of cases of congenital syphilis has gone up by **599%**



Testing

Testing is free through NL Health Services and is available through your primary care provider or by calling 811.

Treatment

Antibiotics can cure syphilis, and are usually given by injection. Early treatment is key to avoiding long-term health problems.

Talk to your health-care provider.

The best way to reduce the risk of syphilis and congenital syphilis is to **practice safer sex**.

More Information

For more information about syphilis, please visit the Health Information (Hi) Website.
hi.easternhealth.ca/syphilis

