

Syphilis & Pregnancy



What you need to know

Congenital syphilis occurs when people pass syphilis to their babies during pregnancy and can have major health impacts.

How it affects your baby's health depends on how long you have had syphilis and if, or when, you get treatment for the infection.

How does it spread?

Syphilis can be spread through the following:

- vaginal, anal or oral sex
- sharing sex toys
- sharing equipment for drug use
- skin contact with a syphilis sore or rash

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

Get tested! Talk to your health-care provider.

Screening is recommended for pregnant people during the first trimester or at their first prenatal visit and again at 28-32 weeks of pregnancy. Repeat screening is recommended at delivery:

- In an area with outbreaks **or**
- For pregnant people at risk of infection or reinfection.

If detected early, syphilis can be safely **treated and cured** with an antibiotic.

For more information about congenital syphilis, please visit the Health Information (Hi) Website.

<https://hi.easternhealth.ca/syphilis-in-pregnancy-and-infants-congenital-syphilis/>



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