

Syphilis is on the rise in the Northwest Territories

Syphilis is a curable infection that is spread through oral, genital, or anal sex with an infected person. Left untreated, syphilis can cause serious health problems or even death.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:



PREVENTION:

Reduce your risk of contracting syphilis in the first place. Talk with your partner(s) about their STI status, and make sure to use a barrier form of protection, like a condom or dental dam.



TESTING:

Every sexually active person should talk to their doctor or nurse about getting a syphilis test. It's a simple blood test that only takes a few minutes. It's best to get tested before and after every new partner, and more often if you have multiple partners, or if you're pregnant or thinking of getting pregnant.



TREATMENT:

If you test positive for syphilis, the treatment is usually just two shots of penicillin, which are given at one appointment.

If you have questions about syphilis or getting tested, call 811 to speak to a health care professional.

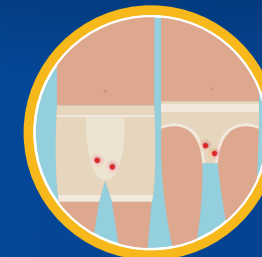
SYMPTOMS TO LOOK OUT FOR

1

PRIMARY
SYPHILIS:



Painless Sore on Mouth



Painless Sore on Genitals

2

SECONDARY
SYPHILIS:



Non-Itchy Rash



Mouth Sores and Sore Throat



Weight Loss



Fever



Muscle Aches



Hair Loss

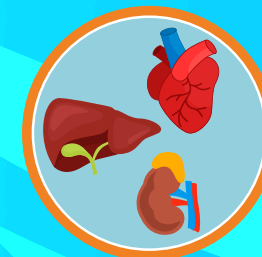
LATENT (HIDDEN) SYPHILIS: No symptoms. This stage can last for years.

3

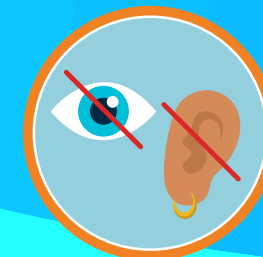
TERTIARY
SYPHILIS:



Dementia



Damage to Internal Organs



Blindness and Deafness



Syphilis displays different symptoms the longer you have it. Syphilis symptoms may appear to go away on their own, but the infection remains. If you have had sex and have had any of these symptoms, you should get tested for syphilis.

