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It's time to talk about  
**Syphilis &  
Congenital  
Syphilis**





## ABOUT SYPHILIS

Syphilis and other sexually transmitted infections are on the rise in San Diego County. Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection caused by bacteria. Congenital syphilis is when a pregnant person passes syphilis to their baby during pregnancy or childbirth. Syphilis can cause a person to have their baby too early or cause a miscarriage or stillbirth (a baby born dead.) It can also lead to serious birth defects in babies.

## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Many people don't notice any symptoms, so they don't know they're infected. Signs of syphilis may include:

- a sore near the area where the bacteria entered the body (vagina, penis, anus, lips, or mouth)
- a rash on the palms of the hands, bottoms of the feet, or skin between the armpits and upper thighs

## TEST & TREAT

The only way to know for sure if you have syphilis is to get tested through either a simple blood test or a test of the fluid from a concerning or suspicious sore.

Syphilis is easy to treat and cure with antibiotics. Without treatment, it can hurt your body's organs and spread to your sexual partners. If your sex partner is pregnant, the infection can also spread to the baby.

We all have a responsibility to get tested and avoid passing syphilis on to sex partners.

Find Free Testing Centers: [gettested.cdc.gov](https://gettested.cdc.gov)