



HOW IS SYPHILIS TREATED?

Syphilis can be treated with medication called antibiotics.

The antibiotics is an injection and will be given to you from the nurse at the health centre if you test positive for syphilis.

Even though syphilis can be cured, treatment cannot undo any damage the infection caused.

IMPORTANT!

- If you test positive, your sexual partner(s) must also be treated too to avoid re-infection.



For more information or for testing information, please call or visit your local community health centre.

To contact STC:

-  (306) 956-6100
-  www.sktc.sk.ca

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SYPHILIS



**SASKATOON TRIBAL COUNCIL
(STC)**



WHAT IS SYPHILIS?

Syphilis is a **sexually transmitted blood borne infection (STBBI)** that can infect anyone who is sexually active.



HOW DO YOU GET SYPHILIS?

Syphilis can be spread by:

- Having **unprotected** vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has syphilis.
- Direct contact with a syphilis sore, known as a chancre.
- A pregnant person who has syphilis, passing the infection to their baby during pregnancy and birth.

All pregnant women should be tested for syphilis because of the risk for the unborn baby to get infected.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF SYPHILIS

Syphilis infection develops in 4 stages. Each stage has different signs and symptoms.

Some common symptoms include:

- Painless sores, known as chancres, that appear where the bacteria entered the body.
- Non-itchy rash that appears on one or more areas of your body. The rash is usually rough and red or reddish-brown in color.
- Other symptoms such as fever, sore throat, hair loss, headaches, muscle aches, weight loss, and increased tiredness.

IMPORTANT!

As syphilis moves through each stage symptoms may appear and go away again, even without treatment.

This does **not** mean that the syphilis infection is gone or that it cannot be transmitted to other people.

You still need to be treated!



WHO IS AT RISK?

- Those who have sex with a person who has syphilis.
- Those who have unprotected sex.
- Those who have had a previous STBBI.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

- Do not have unprotected oral, vaginal, or anal sex.
- Use condoms every time you have sex.
- Reduce the number of sexual partners that you have.
- Get tested regularly.
- Make sure your partner gets tested.

HOW DO I GET TESTED?

A blood test is needed to diagnose syphilis. A nurse will insert a small needle into a vein in your hand or arm to get this blood sample.

This can be done at your health centre by a nurse from STC!