

# Syphilis

## Get Tested at The DOCK

Testing for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis is only \$25, this includes testing and initial treatment. HIV and Hepatitis C testing is FREE.

## When to Get Tested for Syphilis

Only laboratory tests can confirm whether you have syphilis. Follow-up testing by your health care provider is recommended to make sure that your treatment was successful.

## How Testing is Done for Syphilis

Most of the time, a blood test can be used to test for syphilis. Some health care providers will diagnose syphilis by testing fluid from syphilis sore.

**THE DOCK**  
Powered by Desert AIDS Project

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Se Habla Español



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## How is Syphilis Spread?

You can get syphilis by direct contact with a syphilis sore during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Sores can be found on the penis, vagina, anus, in the rectum, or on the lips and in the mouth. Syphilis can also be spread from an infected mother to her unborn baby.

## Are You at Risk of Syphilis?

Any sexually active person can get syphilis.

Because syphilis sores can be hidden in the vagina, anus, under the foreskin of the penis, or in the mouth, it may not be obvious that a sex partner has syphilis.

## How to Avoid Getting Syphilis

- Being in a mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and has negative STI test results;
- Using safer sex practices
- Condoms can prevent transmission of syphilis by preventing contact with a sore. However, sometimes sores occur in areas not covered by a condom.

## What Are The Symptoms Of Syphilis?

Symptoms of syphilis in adults can be divided into three stages:

### Primary Stage

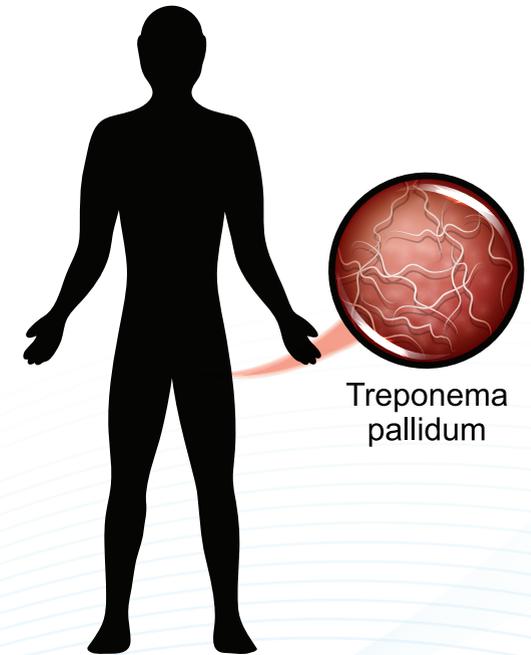
During the first (primary) stage of syphilis, you may notice a single sore, but there may be multiple sores. The sore lasts 3 to 6 weeks and heals regardless of whether or not you receive treatment.

### Secondary Stage

During the secondary stage, you may have skin rashes and/or sores in your mouth, vagina, or anus. The rash can look like rough, red, or reddish brown spots on the palms of your hands and/or the bottoms of your feet. The symptoms from this stage will go away whether or not you receive treatment.

### Latent and Late Stages

The latent stage of syphilis begins when all of the symptoms you had earlier disappear. If you do not receive treatment, you can continue to have syphilis in your body for years without any signs or symptoms. In the late stages of syphilis, the disease damages your internal organs and can result in death.



Treponema pallidum

## Can Syphilis Be Cured?

Yes, syphilis can be cured with the right antibiotics from your health care provider. However, treatment will not undo any damage that the infection has already done.

## What Happens If You Don't Get Treated for Syphilis

If you do not receive treatment, you can continue to have syphilis in your body for years without any signs or symptoms.