



## What is syphilis?

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection that is easily treated and cured if found early.

Left untreated, it can cause irreversible damage to body organs, and death.



## How could I get it?

- You can get it by having condomless sex with someone who has syphilis.
- A pregnant person who has syphilis can pass it to their unborn child.



## What should I look for?

A few weeks after exposure:

- Small, painless sore or sores on or around the genitals, rectum, or mouth, that heal in a month or less.

About six weeks later:

- A rash on the hands or feet.
- Sores inside the mouth, vagina, or anus.
- Fever, headache, tiredness, swollen glands, and sore throat.
- Rash will heal on its own, but the infection will still be there.

Some people with syphilis have no symptoms. It is important to be tested regularly to know for sure.



## To prevent syphilis:

- Use a condom or dental dam.
- Get tested regularly.
- If you have syphilis, don't have sex until cured.



To learn more, contact a health care provider or your local STI clinic.  
To learn more about STIs, or to find your local STI clinic, visit [www.health.ny.gov/STD](http://www.health.ny.gov/STD).  
You can find other STI testing locations at <https://gettested.cdc.gov>



# Syphilis

**Get tested. Get treated. Get cured.**