

Pregnant?

Get tested for syphilis

Syphilis is a preventable and treatable sexually transmitted infection. Testing is important, especially for pregnant people. If untreated, it can cause serious health problems in 50% to 80% of pregnancies affected by syphilis.

To help prevent syphilis, use condoms correctly every time you have sex and limit your number of sexual partners. You should get tested before having sex with a new partner and make sure your partner gets tested, too. Be sure to never share needles or other injection equipment.

Signs and symptoms

Many people don't notice any signs or symptoms. This is why it's important to be tested. If symptoms do appear, here's what you may notice:

- Firm, round and painless sore or sores in the area where syphilis entered the body, typically on or around the genitals, the anus or rectum, or the mouth
- Skin rash
- Swollen throat
- Fever

Syphilis in pregnancy

When syphilis passes from a pregnant person to their baby, it's called congenital syphilis. It can cause serious health problems including:

- Miscarriage or stillbirth
- Premature birth
- Low birth weight
- Severe anemia
- Blindness or deafness

In Michigan, congenital syphilis cases have risen over 200% since 2019.

Testing for syphilis

The only way to know if you have syphilis is to get tested. Tests use a swab or a blood sample. If you're pregnant, ask your doctor to test you at these times:

- Your prenatal visit in your first trimester
- Between 28 and 32 weeks
- Delivery

Syphilis can be treated and cured with medication. Getting treatment early and following it as prescribed is key to keeping your baby healthy. There is no cost to you for syphilis testing or treatment.

If you need help finding a doctor that fits your gender, cultural or language preferences, call Customer Service, 24 hours a day, seven days a week at **1-800-228-8554** (TTY: **1-888-987-5832**).

Blue Cross Complete of Michigan is a Medicaid and Healthy Michigan managed-care health plan. For more information about Blue Cross Complete, visit mibluccrosscomplete.com. To find a doctor near you, visit mibluccrosscomplete.com/findadoctor.



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Source: "Stop Syphilis," Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, September 2025, <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/chronicdiseases/hivsti/syphilis#Stop-Syphilis>

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