

# KNOW THE FACTS

## Your Baby Will Thank You



You can get syphilis or other STIs more than once. If you would like more information, talk to your health care provider, call or visit one of the Chicago Department of Public Health's STI/HIV Clinics.

# PROTECT YOUR BABY

from  
**Congenital  
Syphilis**



**AUSTIN STI SPECIALTY CLINIC**  
**4958 W. MADISON**

**Phone: (312) 746-4871, (312) 746-4872**  
M, W 8am-4pm  
T, Th 9am-5pm



**LAKEVIEW STI SPECIALTY CLINIC**  
**2861 N. CLARK, 2ND FLOOR**

**Phone: (312) 744-5507, (312) 744-1628**  
M, W, F 8am-4pm  
T, Th 10am-6pm



**ROSELAND STI SPECIALTY CLINIC**  
**200 E. 115TH ST.**

**Phone: (312) 747-2831, (312) 747-0054**  
M 8am-4pm  
Th 9am-5pm



FACEBOOK: /CHICAGOPUBLICHEALTH  
TWITTER: @CHIPUBLICHEALTH

Call 311 or visit [healthychicagobabies.org](http://healthychicagobabies.org)

## WHAT IS CONGENITAL SYPHILIS?

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD). Congenital syphilis occurs when a pregnant woman with syphilis passes the infection to her unborn child and can cause serious problems like premature and low birth weight infants, deformities and stillbirths.

## PRENATAL TESTING: IT MAY SAVE A LIFE

If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, it is important to get routine prenatal care and make syphilis testing a part of it.

Pregnant women should get syphilis testing at the first prenatal visit, during the third trimester (28 weeks) and at delivery.

After your syphilis test, be sure to get the results and follow any medical advice.

## TREATMENT: A PLAN OF ACTION

You can be cured, even when you are pregnant.

Proper treatment for syphilis during pregnancy will help prevent your baby from becoming infected.

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) offers FREE syphilis testing and treatment.

## TAKE NOTE

**If you have syphilis, inform your sex partner(s) because they will need to be tested and treated too. This will help them stay healthy, avoid infecting others and avoid reinfecting you.**

## IMPORTANT FACTS TO REMEMBER

- All stages of syphilis are curable.
- If syphilis is not treated in its early stages, it can spread through the body and cause permanent damage to the heart and nervous system.
- A syphilis infection can be passed to the baby at any time during the pregnancy.
- If a woman gets syphilis while she is pregnant, she may have a stillborn baby or a baby who dies shortly after birth.
- An infected baby may be born without signs or symptoms of disease. However, if not treated immediately, the baby may develop serious physical and learning problems.

## ROUTINE TESTING: IT'S A GOOD THING

Not everyone with syphilis will have symptoms, and if they do, they may not notice them.

Some people may get a sore or rash somewhere on their bodies, but the only way to know is to get a simple blood test.

You must ask to be tested. Syphilis testing is not part of most physicals or Pap tests.

If you think you may be at risk for syphilis or other STDs, tell your health care provider. Don't wait to be asked.

Testing is available through your health care provider or at a CDPH clinic.