

How is Syphilis prevented?

- Not engaging in oral, vaginal or anal sex with persons who have it.
- Have sex with only one partner who has been tested and free of STI's.
- Limit the number of your sexual partners.
- Use condoms for every time you have sex (including anal and oral sex) with new and anonymous partner.
- Get tested regularly: once a year for sexually active youth or when you get a new partner.

**For more information or to get a diagnosis,
contact the health centre in your community.**



How to Contact NITHA

Mailing Address:

PO Box 787
Prince Albert, SK S6V 5S4

Physical Address:

Chief Joe Custer I.R. #201
Peter Ballantyne Office Complex
Main Floor, 2300-10th Ave West
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6Z1

Phone: (306) 953-5000

Fax: (306) 953-5020

www.nitha.com



Syphilis

What is Syphilis?

- An infection of the reproductive organs caused by bacteria which people can get from having sex with somebody who has it.

How do you get Syphilis?

- Direct contact with a syphilis sore.
- Unprotected sex with an infected person involving vagina, mouth or anus.
- From the mother to her baby during pregnancy or time of delivery.

Who is greatest risk?

- People who have or whose partner has had more than one sexual partner.
- People who do not use condoms every time they have sex or genital contact.
- People with weakened immune system that make it hard for the body to fight infections.

What are the signs and symptoms of Syphilis?

Syphilis has different symptoms at different stages of the infection. Some symptoms include:

- A painless sore called a chancre (“shanker”) where the bacteria entered the body. The chancre is usually firm, round, small and painless.

- Symptoms may not be noticed or may be mild and may go away without treatment.
- Non-itchy rash which is rough, red or reddish brown spots on the palms of hands and bottoms of feet.
- Other symptoms are fever, swollen glands, sore throat, hair loss, headaches, weight loss, muscle aches and tiredness.
- Symptoms may appear 10 to 20 years after infection.

What are the long term complications of Syphilis?

- Damage to the brain, liver, heart and other parts of the body that can result in death.
- Miscarriage, serious birth defects and possible death of the newborn, in pregnancy.
- Genital sores from syphilis make it easy to acquire and spread HIV.

How is Syphilis treated?

- An antibiotic injection is used to treat syphilis. The number of injections depend on the stage of the disease and any other conditions the person may have such as pregnancy or HIV.
- All pregnant women should be tested for syphilis because of the risk for the unborn baby to get infected.