

# There's a Syphilis outbreak in WA.

We need your help to prevent it.



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## What is Syphilis?

- A sexually transmitted infection (STI).
- Passed on through any sexual act for example: oral sex, anal sex, vaginal sex, kissing or skin-to-skin contact.

## Why should I care about it?

- We are seeing a massive spike in syphilis all across WA, and specifically in young people.
- It's easy to transmit because people often don't know they have it.
- It can harm a baby during pregnancy and cause stillbirths and other complications.
- If left untreated it has serious effects on the body.

## What does it look like?

- Most people don't have any symptoms.
- Some develop sores on their genitals, anus or mouth.
- Can also present as rashes on the face, palms or body.

## I think I have Syphilis, what do I do?

- Go to a GP or sexual health clinic and ask for a syphilis test.
- Treatment involves antibiotics and usually goes away within a week.
- Early intervention is key so if you test positive it's important to notify your sexual partner/s as soon as possible.

## How can it be prevented?

- Use barrier methods (condoms, internal condoms, dental dams and gloves).
- Engage in regular STI testing.

## How often should I get tested?

- If you're sexually active with multiple partners, test every 3-6 months.
- If you have 1 or 2 partners, test every 6-12 months.
- If a sexual partner has recently tested positive, you should get tested as soon as possible.

## How do I get tested?

- Syphilis is detected through a blood test, or a swab test if a sore is present.
- Ask your GP or health practitioner to test for syphilis as some STI testing might not test for syphilis specifically.
- If you're in regional WA you could have access to a finger prick blood test which finds results in just 15 minutes.

For a list of youth friendly sexual health services, visit:

<http://theyeproject.org.au/resources/referral-resource-2020/>

## How can I help others?

- Be an advocate: talk to your friends about testing regularly.
- Be supportive: help to reduce the shame and stigma around STI's.



**Get tested for syphilis by visiting your local GP or sexual health clinic today**