

# ALL ABOUT SYPHILIS



Syphilis is a curable sexually transmitted infection, but it can cause serious issues if left untreated. Syphilis results in sores on the genitals, anus, or mouth and over time it can cause fever, hair loss, weight loss, and fatigue. If left untreated long term, it can spread to the nervous system (neurosyphilis), eyes (ocular syphilis), or ears (otosyphilis).

Syphilis should be tested for annually during routine STI testing at your local public health office or through your primary care provider.

This STI spreads through direct contact with a syphilis sore during oral and penetrative sex, but it can also be transmitted during birth if the parent has syphilis.

## TRANSMISSION

Syphilis testing is typically done through the collection of a blood sample. This can be done at any doctor's office or reproductive health clinic.

## GETTING TESTED

Condoms and sexual abstinence are effective in preventing syphilis, and getting tested regularly can also help prevent transmission.

## PREVENTING SYPHILIS

Syphilis has different stages, with some symptoms appearing earlier than others.

- **Primary**
  - Appearance of sores and rashes
- **Secondary**
  - Fever, sore throat, swollen lymph glands, hair and weight loss, muscle aches, and fatigue
  - Darkening of rashes or sores to a red or brown shade
- **Latent**
  - No symptoms
- **Tertiary**
  - Organ damage occurs, can be fatal
  - Very rare and occurs typically 10-30 years after initially contracting syphilis



Visit [knowyo.org](http://knowyo.org) for testing and prevention information

Information from:  
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention  
& the Wyoming Dept. of Health