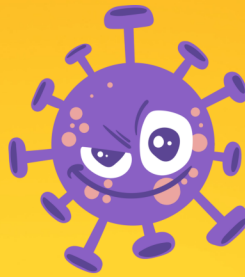


Syphilis cases are on the rise in Chautauqua County



Here's what you should know.

Make sure you and your partner(s) are tested for syphilis and receive treatment before you have sex.

What is Syphilis?

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection or STI caused by bacteria and is spread through skin-to-skin contact with a syphilis sore, typically during sex. If left untreated, syphilis can cause permanent damage to your organs.

What if I'm pregnant?

Syphilis can be transmitted from a pregnant person to their baby during pregnancy or at birth. Syphilis can have major health impacts on your baby. If you test positive for syphilis, be sure to get treated right away. Preventing syphilis in yourself and your sex partner(s) is the best way to prevent your baby from getting syphilis.

Signs and Symptoms

The disease starts as a sore that's often painless and typically appears on the genitals, rectum, or mouth. Syphilis develops in stages. The symptoms vary with each stage. But the stages may overlap. And the symptoms don't always happen in the same order. You may be infected with syphilis and not notice it. Without treatment, the infection stays in the body and can be harmful.

Treatment

Syphilis can be treated and cured with antibiotics. If you are diagnosed with and treated for syphilis, your doctor should do follow-up testing for at least one year to make sure your treatment is working.

Learn more



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