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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a syphilis outbreak in Alberta impacting people from all groups of the population with rates of infection not seen in many decades • Syphilis is an infection that is transmitted from person to person during vaginal, anal, or oral sex and can be passed from mother to baby during pregnancy and birth. Syphilis that passes this way is called Congenital syphilis • Congenital syphilis can cause birth defects and damage your baby's brain, bones, teeth, vision, hearing and many other organs. • Untreated syphilis in pregnancy can cause miscarriage and stillbirth • In Alberta, since 2015, more than 100 babies were born with this infection, including stillbirths |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syphilis is an infection caused by bacteria • Syphilis is spread by direct contact with a syphilitic sore. Sores can appear on the external genitals, in the vagina, around the anus and in and around the mouth and are often missed. When you're sexually active, the best way to prevent syphilis is to use condoms, vaginal condoms or dental dams for anal, oral or vaginal sex. • Get STI testing if you have symptoms or every 3 to 6 months if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a new partner ○ more than one partner ○ anonymous partners ○ your partner has other partners ○ you or your partner(s) have symptoms • Syphilis has often no symptoms but can still be passed on to sexual partners. It does not go away without treatment. |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A simple blood test can tell if you have syphilis and a doctor, midwife or nurse practitioner can order the test for you • All women should be tested for syphilis early during pregnancy and again at delivery. If you are pregnant, ask your doctor, midwife or nurse practitioner about testing. • If you have syphilis, your sexual partner(s) need to be tested and treated so they can be cured too. |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have syphilis, your health care provider will give you medication that will cure you and prevent the infection from being passed on to your baby if detected and treated early in pregnancy. • Treatment is recommended for all sex partners to avoid re-infection. Remember that you can have a new syphilis infection even if you have been treated in the past. |
|  | <p>Need more information? Call your doctor, Health Link at 811 or access ahs.ca/syphilis for local STI / Sexual Health Clinic information.</p> |