

# Protect Your Baby

## Get Tested for Syphilis



Syphilis is an infection mothers can pass to their unborn babies. **It can make babies very sick, cause them to have ongoing health issues, and in some cases can lead to death.**

Syphilis can be cured with the right medicine.

If it is not treated, syphilis **can pass from mother to baby.**

This is called congenital syphilis.

It's best to get **tested for syphilis 3 times** during your pregnancy.



# Get Tested as Soon as Possible

## You may not know you have syphilis.

Anyone who has sex can get syphilis. Many people with syphilis do not have any symptoms. The only way to know is to get tested.



## You should get tested **3 times** during your pregnancy:



### At your first doctor's visit or as soon as possible during pregnancy

- Even if you've been tested for syphilis in the past, you should be tested when you become pregnant.
- If you have syphilis, your sex partners need to be tested and treated too, or you might get it again.



### During your third trimester (or 3 months before your due date)

- It is possible to get syphilis later in pregnancy or again, so you should get tested a second time when you're around 28 weeks pregnant.



### At the hospital when you have your baby

- It is possible to get syphilis later in pregnancy or again, so testing at delivery is very important.

# Quick Treatment Can Protect Your Baby

**If you have syphilis, you need to be treated right away.**

To make sure your baby does not get syphilis, it is important to get your medicine **as soon as possible.**

If you miss appointments, your medicine might not work as well.

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Sometimes, medicine can be given one time right when you find out you have syphilis.

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Sometimes, you may have to go to a different doctor **to get your medicine** or come back for more doses.



Let your doctor or nurse know if you can't get your medicine for any reason. **They will work to get you the medicine you need to stay healthy and protect your baby.**

The consequence of untreated congenital syphilis is too high.



**Without medicine, congenital syphilis can cause:**

- ➔ A baby to be born early or small
- ➔ A baby to have lifelong health problems
- ➔ Miscarriage, stillbirth, or newborn death

**If you're pregnant, get tested  
for syphilis as soon as possible.**



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**Visit <https://gettested.cdc.gov/>  
or contact your  
local health department:**

**Your baby's health  
depends on your health.**

**Get tested for  
syphilis today.**

