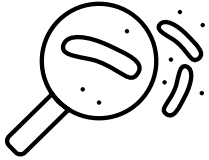


Syphilis



What is syphilis?

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that is caused by a bacteria. Syphilis rates are increasing across Ontario and our region.



How is syphilis spread?

It is spread when someone with syphilis has condomless vaginal, anal or oral sex with someone else. You can reduce your risk of getting syphilis by using a barrier method (e.g., condom, dental dam) every time you have vaginal, anal or oral sex.



What are symptoms of syphilis?

There are different symptoms with each stage of syphilis. Symptoms may include:

- A painless open sore on the penis, vagina, rectum, or mouth.
- A non-itchy rash on the chest, stomach, genitals, palms of the hands or soles of the feet.
- Swollen glands, fever, headache, muscle aches, lack of appetite or tiredness.
- Many people don't notice symptoms of syphilis, so it's important to get tested if you are sexually active.



Getting tested

- Syphilis is tested by a simple blood test.
- Talk to your doctor, student wellness services or local health unit about getting tested for syphilis or other STIs.



Getting antibiotic treatment

Syphilis can be cured with antibiotics. If you have tested positive for syphilis your health care provider will help you to get treatment.

If you have questions contact KFL&A Public Health at 613-549-1232, ext. 1275 or email sh@kflaph.ca
