

# Congenital Syphilis in Indigenous Communities



**Congenital syphilis rates are on the rise in Canada, including in Indigenous communities.**

**Nurturing and caring for yourself and the next generation helps keep the whole community strong.**

## Protect yourself and your baby



Congenital syphilis is an infection passed on to an unborn baby during pregnancy or childbirth.



If untreated, congenital syphilis can lead to miscarriage, birth defects and stillbirth. Syphilis can be also transmitted through unprotected vaginal, anal and oral sex.



Syphilis often has no symptoms, but you can develop sores in the mouth, anal and genital areas, a rash, fever, and swollen glands.

**Make syphilis testing a part of your regular prenatal care.**



## Confidential testing and culturally safe treatment



Get tested as soon as possible with a quick and easy blood test and swab, especially if you are pregnant. You might need to be screened again to keep you and your baby healthy.

**Treatment for syphilis is safe during pregnancy.**

**Contact your local healthcare provider to discuss prevention, testing and treatment today.**

**To learn more, visit:**  
[canada.ca/syphilis](https://canada.ca/syphilis)

