

SYPHILIS

Syphilis is an infection that is spread through sexual intercourse. You cannot get syphilis from toilet seats, water fountains, or sharing towels.

Signs of Syphilis

- You may not always notice signs of syphilis.
- Symptoms may disappear, but syphilis is still present.
- Syphilis occurs in 3 stages:

Stage 1 (1-12 weeks after contact)

- A painless red bump or sore appears on the genitals or the mouth or anus.
- The sore lasts 1-5 weeks.

Stage 2 (1-6 months after contact)

- A rash appears on the chest, back, arms, and legs.
- You may have a sore throat and fever and feel sick all over.
- The lymph nodes on your neck, underarms, and groin will get large.

Stage 3

- You may lose feeling in the arms and legs.
- Pain, arthritis, skin warts, and mental changes will occur.

What to Do

1. Take medicines your doctor prescribes.
2. Avoid sexual intercourse during the time you are being treated for syphilis.
3. Return to all doctor's appointments.
4. Always use condoms during sexual intercourse.