

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by bacteria. It can be dangerous if it isn't treated. Luckily it's very easy to treat with antibiotics.

How do people catch syphilis?

Syphilis can spread through skin-to-skin contact, through oral sex, and through intercourse.

There are things you can do to reduce your chances of catching it:

- Use condoms, dams, gloves, and lube for oral, vaginal, and anal sex
- Wear gloves to do a visual health check on clients – look out for sores or rashes
- Cover toys with condoms and wash them with soap between users
- Avoid touching sores or rashes on a client's body, and wash hands with soap and water if you do



Scan this QR code for instructions on how to do a health check

What does syphilis look like?

Syphilis can look like:

- A sore on or inside the mouth, genitals or butt.
- A red rash on hands, back, chest or feet
- High temperature
- Swollen glands
- Hair loss
- Tiredness

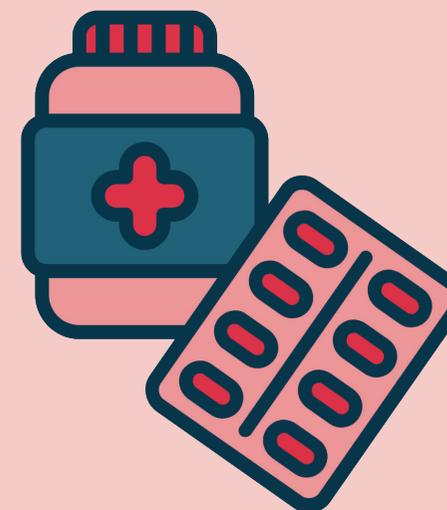
Sometimes syphilis doesn't have any symptoms, but it can still harm your health. That's why it's important to get tested regularly even if you don't feel unwell.



Scan this QR code to see photos of syphilis

What will getting tested be like?

The doctor will take some of your blood to test it. If you have sores on your body, the doctor might also swab the sores to test if they're caused by syphilis.



What if I test positive?

If you have syphilis the doctor will give you antibiotics to treat it. It might be pills that you have to take for a few weeks, or it could be a series of injections.

This treatment is free for all sex workers in NSW. You don't need a Medicare card.

How can I get tested?

Getting tested and treated for syphilis is free for all sex workers in NSW. You don't need a Medicare card to get treated. There are sexual health clinics all over NSW.



Scan this QR code to find your nearest clinic

Syphilis can cause serious health problems if it isn't treated, so it's a good idea to get tested regularly – every 3-4 months.



About SWOP NSW

We are a community organisation run by and for sex workers in NSW. We can provide you:

- Free condoms, lube, dams, and gloves
- Sexual health advice
- Drug and alcohol information
- Free counselling
- Information about your legal rights
- English, Mandarin, Cantonese and Thai speaking staff

Contact us

SWOP NSW
(02) 9184 9466
swopconnect@swop.org.au
7/110 Botany Rd
Alexandria NSW 2012

Other resources

NSW Sexual Health Infolink
1800 451 624
www.shil.nsw.gov.au

National Translating and Interpreting Service
Phone the number below and tell them which organisation you'd like to contact
1800 131 450
www.tisnational.gov.au



**STAYING SAFE FROM
SYPHILIS**

swop