Syphilis. Prevent. Test. Treat.

Why are we concerned about syphilis?
Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that affects both men and women. The percent of reported syphilis cases in Virginia increased by over 40% in 2015. If left untreated, syphilis can damage your organs and may even cause death. Pregnant women with syphilis may go into labor too early, have babies with physical and mental health problems, or have a stillborn baby.

Who is at risk for syphilis?
Anyone who has been sexually active may get syphilis if they have had unprotected sexual contact with an infected person. It may also be spread from an infected mother to her baby.

How do I know if I have syphilis?
Syphilis is often hard to diagnose because it has symptoms which may look like other diseases. The best way to find out if you have the disease is through a simple blood test. Your local health department offers this testing for free.

Can syphilis be cured?
YES! Syphilis can be cured with the right antibiotics from your health care provider. However, treatment will not undo any damage the infection has already caused.

For more information: Contact your healthcare provider, local health department, or visit www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis.

THOMAS JEFFERSON HEALTH DISTRICT
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

9/16

Health Whys
A public health message from
www.tjhd.org

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