

Take the Steps to Protect Your Baby from HIV and Syphilis

GET TESTED

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that all pregnant women get tested for HIV and Syphilis throughout their pregnancy. It is important to prevent the transmission of HIV or Syphilis to the baby if the pregnant woman is found to be positive for either. MDHHS recommends that pregnant women be tested for HIV and Syphilis at these times:



At the first prenatal visit

In the beginning of the third trimester, ideally around 28-32 weeks

Delivery, depending on the circumstances

WHAT IS HIV?

HIV is a chronic disease that can damage the body's immune system. HIV cannot be cured, but it can be managed with medication.

WHAT IS SYPHILIS?

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection. Syphilis can cause serious health problems if left untreated. Syphilis can be treated and cured with antibiotics.

TRANSMITTING HIV OR SYPHILIS TO THE BABY CAN BE PREVENTED.

HIV can be managed with medication to prevent transmission to the baby. Syphilis can be treated and cured with medication to prevent transmission to the baby. Getting treatment early and staying on track with treatment is key to making sure the baby is healthy.

HIV and Syphilis are easy to test for. Your healthcare provider will give you a full explanation of testing.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GET TESTED DURING PREGNANCY?

If a pregnant woman has HIV or Syphilis, both can be passed on to the baby during pregnancy and delivery. HIV can also be passed on to the baby through breastfeeding if the mom has the virus. HIV is a chronic disease that can damage the baby's immune system. Syphilis can be passed on to the baby resulting in Congenital Syphilis (CS). CS can cause major health problems for the baby. Some effects of CS are:

- Miscarriage
- Premature birth
- Low birth weight in babies
- Severe anemia in babies
- Blindness or deafness in babies

Prenatal Testing is Important!

If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, it is important to get routine prenatal care that includes HIV and Syphilis testing.

Prenatal care and testing are important steps to make sure that both you and your baby are healthy throughout your pregnancy and after delivery.

Talk to your doctor about the importance of prenatal testing. Getting tested can even save your baby's life!

After your test be sure to discuss the results with your doctor and follow any prescribed treatment or prevention. It is very important to take any medications as prescribed to ensure the health of you and your baby.

Resources

Michigan's HIV/STD Hotline:
800-872-2437

Maternal Infant Health
Program:
833-644-6447
www.michigan.gov/mihp

For information about the
Women, Infants, & Children
(WIC) program and
additional community
resources:
call 211 or contact your
local health department



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It's Their Health Too

HIV and Syphilis Testing
During Pregnancy

A close-up photograph showing a person's hands gently holding a newborn baby's hand. The baby's hand is small and pink, with its fingers slightly curled. The person's hands are larger and appear to be wearing a white medical glove. The background is softly blurred, showing what looks like a hospital gown or blanket.