

It's Their Health, Too

HIV and Syphilis Testing During Pregnancy

WHY IS PRENATAL CARE IMPORTANT?

If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, it is important to get regular prenatal care. Prenatal care and testing are important steps to make sure you and your baby are healthy during your pregnancy and after delivery.

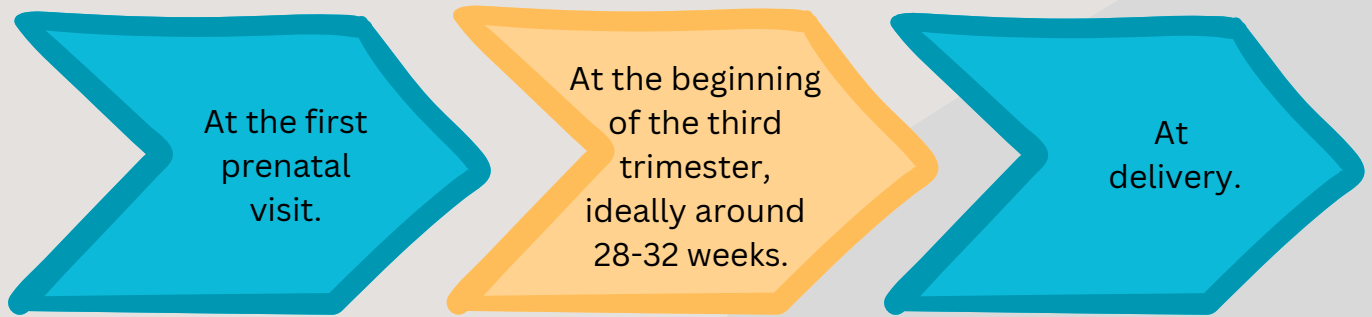


WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GET TESTED DURING PREGNANCY?

- The only way to know if you have human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or syphilis is to **get tested**.
- If you have HIV or syphilis, you can pass these infections to your baby during pregnancy and delivery.
- HIV can also be passed to baby through breast/chestfeeding if you have HIV and have not been taking prescribed medications.



WHEN SHOULD I BE TESTED?



HOW DO I GET TESTED?

A simple blood draw is all you need. Your health care provider will give a full explanation of testing. **[Find an HIV and sexually transmitted infection \(STI\) testing center near you.](#)**

WHAT IS HIV?

- HIV is a chronic infection that can damage the body's immune system.
- HIV can't be cured, but symptoms can be managed with medication.
- If you have HIV, your baby will get special medication after birth to reduce the risk of HIV.

WHAT IS SYPHILIS?

- Syphilis is an STI that can cause serious health problems if left untreated.
- Syphilis is treated and cured with antibiotics.
- Syphilis can be passed to your baby, resulting in congenital syphilis (CS).
- CS can cause significant health problems for baby, such as:
 - Miscarriage or stillbirth.
 - Premature birth.
 - Low birth weight.
 - Severe anemia.
 - Blindness or deafness.

HOW DO I PREVENT GIVING HIV OR SYPHILIS TO MY BABY?

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

OTHER RESOURCES:

- Michigan's HIV/STI Hotline: 800-872-2437.
- Maternal Infant Health Program: 833-644-6447 or Michigan.gov/mihp.
- For information about the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program and additional community resources: call 211 or contact your local health department.

