

How Testing for Syphilis Can Protect Your Unborn Baby

Syphilis infection in a pregnant woman passes through the umbilical cord connecting the mother to the unborn baby. Syphilis is easy to cure in its early stages. Pregnant women should get tested at the:

- First prenatal visit,
- Between 28 and 32 weeks, and
- During labor and delivery.

Untreated syphilis in pregnant women can cause:

- Miscarriage (losing the baby during pregnancy)
- Premature birth (a baby born before time)
- Stillbirth (A baby born dead)
- Infant death (Death of the baby shortly after birth)
- Babies born alive may have serious problems, such as
 - Deformed bones
 - Severe anemia (low blood count)
 - Enlarged liver and spleen
 - Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)
 - Brain and nerve problems
 - Meningitis
 - Skin rashes
 - Blindness
 - Deafness

Your unborn baby is at risk if you:

- Don't get prenatal STD testing

- Have a new partner or multiple sex partners
- Have unprotected sex
- Use illicit drugs
- Trade sex for money
- Are a man who has sex with men and your pregnant partner

Take Action to Protect Your Baby:

Men and women should take action to protect their unborn baby.

- Remind your prenatal care provider to test you at the first prenatal visit, between 28 and 32 weeks, and during labor and delivery.
- Health insurance or not, get testing and treatment free at any local health department – Visit <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/about/locations.html>
- Do the test at home - Request a free STD Testing Kit at <https://adph.mybinxhealth.com>
- For questions, call 334-206-5350
- For more facts, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/std/pregnancy/stdfact-pregnancy-detailed.htm>
- **Early Detection of syphilis in both the pregnant woman and her partner + Early Treatment of both the pregnant woman and her partner = A healthy Baby**

