

## **Public Service Announcement**

## Syphilis is on the rise in Nunavut

Start Date: February 19, 2025 End Date: February 28, 2025

Nunavut-wide 90 sec

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that is on the rise in Nunavut. Syphilis is a serious STI that is passed from one person to another during sex. Syphilis can also be passed from mother to child during birth.

An early symptom is a painless sore that usually appears 3 to 90 days after sexual contact with an infected person. Many people don't notice the sore because it is painless.

It is important to be tested if you think you have syphilis. Syphilis is easily treated with antibiotics if caught early. However, over time, if left untreated it can cause severe damage to the heart, blood vessels and brain, and even cause death. People with syphilis are also at greater risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

The more sexual partners you have, the greater the risk that you will be exposed to an STI. Be careful – if you participate in excessive drinking or drug use, you reduce your inhibitions and increase the probability you may participate in unprotected sex. Using a condom every time you have sex can greatly reduce the risk of getting an STI.

To learn more about STIs, visit the <u>I Respect Myself website</u> or contact your local health centre. Getting tested for an STI is easy and it's confidential.

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