

Syphilis Testing in the Emergency Department

What you need to know:

Patients who present to the Emergency Department with certain medical conditions will automatically have a syphilis test included in their diagnostic blood work.

Syphilis infection may not have any symptoms, therefore many people do not seek testing. The Emergency Department provides an excellent setting to test patients for syphilis who may not otherwise be tested and treated.

The only way to know if you have syphilis is to get tested. Syphilis can be treated, but if left untreated can become a serious and life-threatening infection. Please let us know if you would not like to be tested for syphilis.

Even if you don't have symptoms, you can still infect others.

How do I get my results?

Do not call the Emergency Department that collected your sample. They will not have your results.

If your tests are negative you will not be contacted. You can access your results by:

- Phoning toll-free 1-866-778-7736 to get your results **two weeks** after your test. **OR**
- Visiting Health Gateway: www.healthgateway.gov.bc.ca **OR**
- Following up with your health care provider.

If you think you have been exposed to syphilis and it is not detected in your test results, or if you think you have symptoms of a syphilis infection, talk to your health care provider.

If your test is positive for syphilis:

You will be contacted by a nurse who will provide follow-up care and connect you with a health care provider if you do not have one.

For more information visit:

Smart Sex Resource:

www.smartsexresource.com

Interior Health:

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/syphilis>



Call 8-1-1 Healthlink BC www.healthlinkbc.ca	Nurse	24 hours a day	Daily	Call 8-1-1 to speak with a nurse, ask a dietitian about nutrition, or a pharmacist about your medication.
	Dietitian	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Mon – Fri	
	Pharmacist	5 p.m. – 9 a.m.	Daily	
	Hearing Impaired	Call 7-1-1		