



Public Health Administration

Trudy Raymundo
Director

Corwin Porter
Assistant Director

Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D.
Health Officer

Health Advisory on Congenital Syphilis Prevention

To: San Bernardino County Providers and Hospital Maternity Personnel:

The California Department of Public Health continues to report statewide increases of syphilis among women of childbearing age (12-44 years) as well as congenital syphilis resulting from non/inadequate treatment.

San Bernardino County has been disproportionality impacted by congenital syphilis with the number of reported cases increasing by 400% from 2014 to 2016.

Prevention of Congenital Syphilis is an urgent Public Health matter.

With early diagnosis and treatment of pregnant women, congenital syphilis and its complications can be prevented.

Recommendations for all Clinicians:

1. Screen all pregnant women for syphilis at the first prenatal visit with **RPR** and **TPPA**.
2. Conduct an additional syphilis screening in the third trimester of pregnancy at 28-32 weeks.
3. Test any woman who delivers a stillborn infant for syphilis.

Remember to treat syphilis in pregnant women as soon as infection is identified. Pregnant women should be treated with a penicillin regimen appropriate for their stage of infection. If a pregnant woman is allergic to penicillin, she must be de-sensitized prior to treatment with penicillin. It is important to also treat all partners to avoid re-infection.

All suspected cases of syphilis must be reported within one working day to the San Bernardino Public Health Department as required by state law (Title 17 CCR §2500, §2593, §2641.5-2643.20 and §2800-2812). To report a Syphilis case, **fax (909) 387-6377** or call the Communicable Disease Section at **1-800-722-4794**.

For more information about [Syphilis](#), [STDs](#) or [STD Treatment Guidelines](#) visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention page.


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