

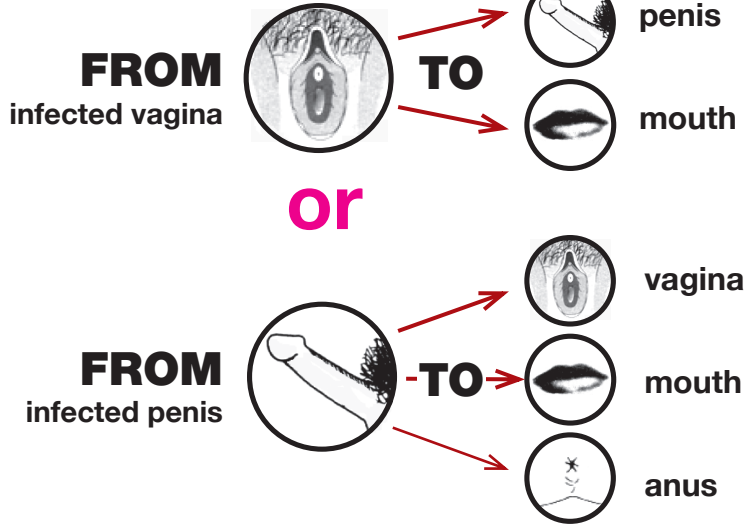
What is syphilis?

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infections (STIs) caused by bacteria. Many people with this infection have no symptoms. Syphilis can be **cured** with antibiotics (pills). **If left untreated, these infections can cause serious long-term health problems and death.** Having syphilis, even without symptoms, may make your body more open to getting infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Remember: bacteria spread wherever and whenever they can. Sex can spread bacteria, but sex **does not cause** syphilis. Bacteria cause syphilis.

How is it spread?

Syphilis is spread by oral, anal or vaginal sex [*blowjob or going down, screwing or getting screwed in the ass or pussy*], when bacteria from an infected person gets into your body through breaks in the skin or mucosa (thin wet skin inside mouth, vagina [*pussy*] or rectum [*inside ass*]).



Syphilis can also spread from mother to child during pregnancy or birth.

Can it be prevented?

Yes, it can. Prevention means reducing your risk of getting an STI. You can avoid syphilis infection by using condoms for oral, anal or vaginal sex. Using condoms and having safer sex will reduce your risk of getting syphilis.

USING
CONDOMS
& SAFER
SEX

OVER

What are the symptoms?

Many people infected with syphilis show no signs or symptoms at all. If you do show symptoms, this is what may happen to you.

Primary syphilis [*1st stage*] – Several weeks to 3 months after infection, painless sores (chancres) may appear where the bacteria first entered your body, on the penis [*dick*], scrotum [*balls*], vulva or inside the vagina [*pussy*], on the anus or inside the rectum [*ass*], or in the mouth or throat. If sores only appear inside your body, you might not even know they are there. The sores go away by themselves, but **you are still infected.**

Secondary syphilis [*2nd stage*] – About 6 weeks after the sores appear, you may have fever, headache, pain and rash anywhere on your body. Your hair may fall out in clumps. You are highly contagious [*very likely to spread syphilis to others*] during this phase. Symptoms go away, but **you are still infected.**

Latent syphilis [*silent stage*] – After about a year, all symptoms go away and you are no longer contagious [*no longer spread syphilis to others*]. **You are still infected.**

Tertiary syphilis [*3rd stage*] – About one-third of infected people will develop serious or fatal complications within 10 to 30 years, including ulcers of skin and bones, heart disease, paralysis or brain disorders. People infected with HIV may progress from primary to tertiary syphilis more rapidly than other people.

Can it be cured?

Yes. Syphilis is usually cured with antibiotics (given with a needle) after a positive test result.

Remember: you can get syphilis **more than once.**

How can I tell if I am infected?

Syphilis is diagnosed by testing a swab taken from a sore or by a blood test. A swab is like a thin Q-tip for collecting body fluids.

You might think about getting tested for syphilis if:

- You or your sex partner have had oral, anal or vaginal sex without a condom.
- You have symptoms of syphilis.
- A sex partner tells you they are infected or have symptoms.
- You are told that a sex partner is infected.
- You have been diagnosed with another STI.
- You are pregnant. Babies with syphilis may test negative and not have any symptoms, but are still infected.

THE
MALE
SEX

OVER

THE
FEMALE
SEX

OVER

What will happen when I go to get tested?

When you go to a doctor or nurse to get tested for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), give as many details as you can so you can get the best care possible. This will **probably** happen:

- Your genitals may be examined for sores, growths, swelling or discharge [*stuff coming out of sores or pee hole*].
- You will be asked for a urine [*pee*] sample.
- Swabs may be taken from the vagina [*pussy*], urethra [*pee hole*], mouth, throat, anus or rectum [*inside/outside the ass*].
- A blood sample may be taken to test for Hepatitis B and syphilis.
- You may be offered HIV testing (usually done separately).

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What about HIV?

HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is also a sexually transmitted infection (STI). It is spread when infected blood, semen [*cum*] or vaginal fluid [*pussy juice*] gets into your blood. If you already have an STI such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes or genital warts, you may have broken skin, swelling or sores that make it much easier for HIV to get into your body.

Where can I go?

You can get tested for STIs, HIV and hepatitis or get free condoms at one of these drop-in teen clinics:

Klinic - 870 Portage - 784-4090

Every MON. from 4:30-8pm, except long weekends (20 and under only).

Website: www.klinic.mb.ca email: klinic@klinic.mb.ca

Women's Health Clinic - 419 Graham - 947-1517

Every THURS. from 3:30-8pm (19 and under only, boys welcome!).

Website: www.womenshealthclinic.org

Nor'West Coop - 103-61 Tyndall - 940-2020

Every WED. from 4-5:30pm, (19 and under only).

Website: www.norwesthealth.ca email: info@norwesthealth.ca

Mount Carmel Clinic - 886 Main - 582-2311

Every SAT. from 12-4 pm, except long weekends (19 and under only).

Website: www.mountcarmel.ca

Nine Circles Clinic - 705 Broadway - 940-6001

Every WED. from 1-7 pm (No age limit).

Website: www.ninecircles.ca

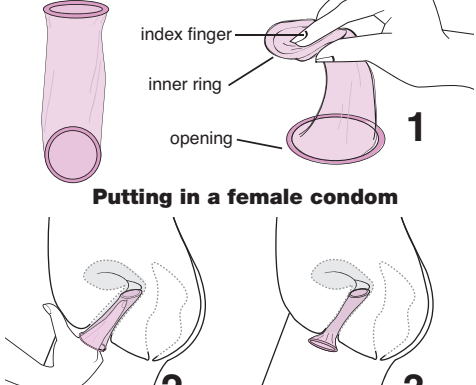
There are several other teen clinics available on a drop-in basis or by appointment, both inside and outside Winnipeg. Go to www.serc.mb.ca/SERC/GE/WA for a complete listing of locations and times.

STDS

SYPHILIS

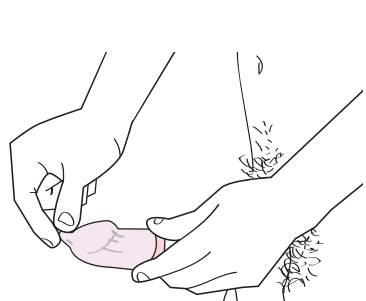
Using Condoms & Safer Sex

Condoms prevent bacteria and viruses from spreading.



The **FEMALE CONDOM** can be put in up to 8 hours before sex. It has two rings - one at the opening and a loose inner ring that fits over the cervix. Squeeze the inner ring and push into the vagina [pussy] with your index finger. It can also be used anally [up the ass].

A **MALE CONDOM** is rolled on to the erect penis [dick]. Pinch the tip to leave a space for semen [cum]. Don't use oil-based lube (such as baby oil, vaseline or hand lotion). Oil breaks male condoms, but is safe for female condoms.

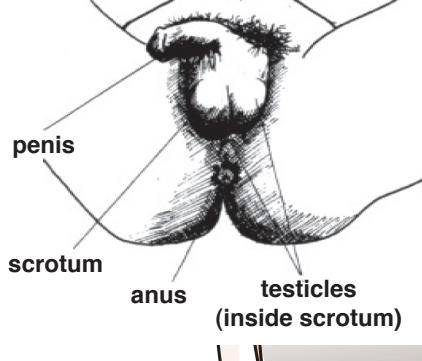


Using condoms is often called **SAFER SEX**. Besides using condoms, safer sex can mean kissing, licking, sucking, masturbating, rubbing or any sex that reduces the exchange of body fluids. **Safer sex is NOT risk-free, but having safer sex can reduce your risk.**

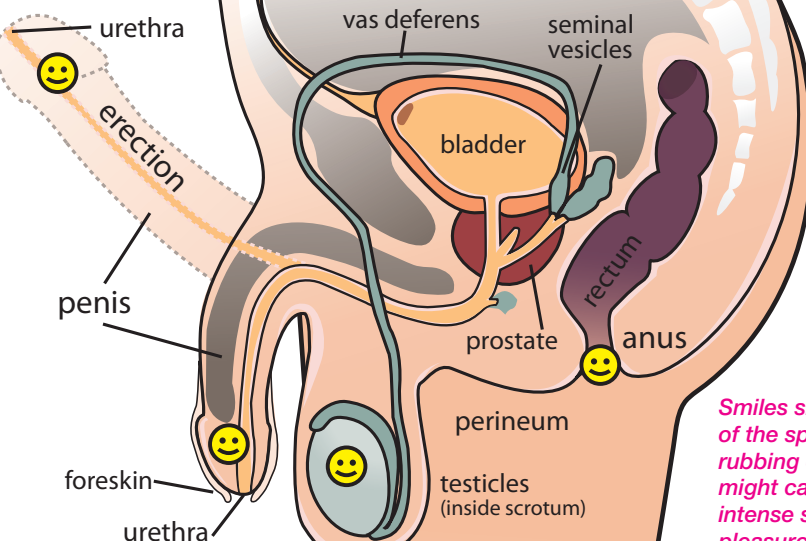
Let's Have a Look... The Male Sex

The testicles make sperm, which go up vas deferens. Sperm mixes with semen made by seminal vesicles and prostate, and exits the urethra during orgasm.

OUTSIDE VIEW



- Other Facts:**
- **Urethra** is the tube that pee and semen [cum] comes out of.
 - **Perineum** is the skin between the scrotum and the anus.
 - **Foreskin** is sometimes removed by circumcision.

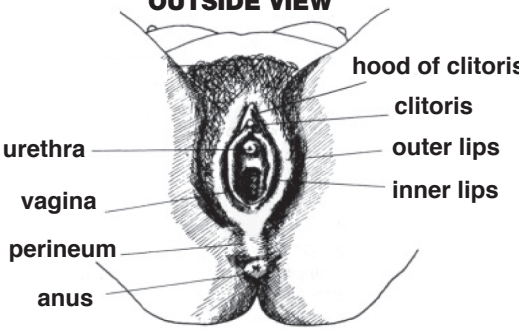


Smiles show some of the spots where rubbing or licking might cause intense sexual pleasure.

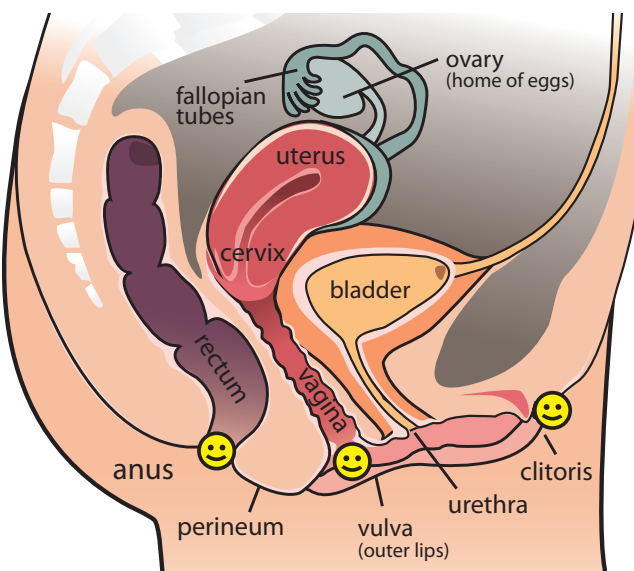
Let's Have a Look... The Female Sex

Once a month, an **ovary** releases an egg, which goes down a **fallopian tube** to the **uterus**. If the egg is not fertilized by a sperm, the lining of the uterus is released about once every 28 days (called "menstrual blood"). This blood flows from the cervix and then through the vagina.

OUTSIDE VIEW



- Other Facts:**
- **Urethra** is the tube that pee comes out of.
 - **Perineum** is the skin between the vulva and the anus.



Smiles show some of the spots where rubbing or licking might cause intense sexual pleasure.

What is "Public Health" for?

The main job of public health is the prevention of illness. If you test positive for syphilis, it is important that sex partners who might get these infections from you be informed and tested. This is done to:

prevent complications from these infections and to reduce the spread of these infections.

You will be encouraged to tell your sex partners yourself. If you cannot, a public health nurse will tell them for you. This is confidential. **Your name will never be mentioned.**

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Sex & Prevention

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PLEASE COPY AND USE

This pamphlet series was produced as part of the Youth & STD/HIV Prevention Project at Sexuality Education Resource Centre (SERC), in collaboration with Kali Shiva AIDS Services. The original writing and design of this pamphlet series involved over 300 youth and 60 service providers. Ongoing funding for development and printing provided by the Winnipeg Foundation, Public Health Agency of Canada (AIDS Community Action Program), and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. 1st print: 1998. 2nd print: 2000. 3rd print: 2001. 4th print: 2002. 5th print: 2004. 6th print: 2006.

Call SERC at (204) 982-7800 for copies or for more info.

Questions Anyone?

Phone:

Web:

Public Health STI Line:
940-2200
Health Links (Winnipeg):
788-8200
Outside Winnipeg:
1-888-315-9257

www.serc.mb.ca
Or send your question to
thefactsoflife@serc.mb.ca
Your question will be
answered confidentially
within 2 working days.