

New screening recommendations for syphilis

- Report positive cases to CDPHE within 24 hours
- Screen sexually active people 15-44 years of age.
- Traditionally, ruling out Syphilis and HIV is part of the workup to diagnose dementia.

Key points

- Colorado continues to experience a sharp rise in syphilis rates over the past few years:
 - Three-fold increase in incidence of all stages of syphilis from 2018 to 2023*
 - Seven-fold increase in incidence of congenital syphilis from 2018 to 2023*
- Colorado is considered an area of increased incidence of syphilis at this time. CDPHE is issuing new
 screening recommendations in response to this increase in cases. Screening requires use of a
 standardized algorithm, including at least one treponemal and one non-treponemal test.
 Screen:
 - All sexually active people between the ages of 15 and 44 years.
 - All pregnant people three times: at the first prenatal visit, early in the third trimester (28-32 weeks gestation), and at delivery.
 - All pregnant people who present to an urgent care center or an emergency room if the
 patient has not received prior prenatal care or lacks documentation of adequate syphilis
 screening during their current pregnancy.
 - People with an intrauterine fetal demise.
 - All pregnant people as described above in correctional facilities, such as prisons, jails, and juvenile detention centers.
 - Any person being evaluated for a sexually transmitted infection. Testing should include syphilis, HIV, gonorrhea, and chlamydia.

<u>CDC Laboratory Recommendations for Syphilis</u> <u>Testing, United States, 2024 | MMWR</u>

false positive should be ruled out.



Traditional algorithm Reverse sequence algorithm Nontreponemal (lipoidal antigen) serologic test Treponemal serologic test Qualitative RPR or VDRL (e.g., EIA or CIA) Reactive Reactive treponemal Nonreactive treponemal Nonreactive Quantitate RPR or VDRL titer serologic test serologic test Syphilis is unlikely Syphilis is unlikely Treponemal serologic test Nontreponemal (lipoidal antigen) serologic test Quantitate RPR or VDRL titer Reactive treponemal Nonreactive treponemal serologic test serologic test Reactive Nonreactive Syphilis is unlikely Previously treated or untreated syphilis Previously treated or untreated syphilis Reactive second treponemal Nonreactive second serologic test treponemal serologic test Previously treated or Syphilis is unlikely. If patient is at risk for syphilis, repeat RPR or VDRL in untreated syphilis several weeks. Prozone and biologic

 $FIGURE\ 3.\ Algorithms\ that\ can\ be\ applied\ to\ screening\ for\ syphilis\ with\ serologic\ tests\ --\ CDC\ laboratory\ recommendations\ for\ syphilis\ testing\ in\ the\ United\ States,\ 2024$

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Diagnosis, Management and Prevention of Syphilis

Syphilis Monograph 2019 NYC PTC NYC DOHMHDownload

Resources:

• The Diagnosis, Management and Prevention of Syphilis (nycptc.org)