



## Health, Healthy Living and Seniors

Public Health and Primary Health Care  
Communicable Disease Control  
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Dear Colleague:

### Re: Provincial Response to Syphilis Outbreak – Management Tool Available

**There is an outbreak of *infectious syphilis* in Manitoba; all regional health authorities are impacted. In addition, on October 14, 2015, a case of *congenital syphilis* was reported to the province.**

- In response to this outbreak and in alignment with the provincial STBBIs strategy (2015-2019) goals and objectives; Manitoba Health, Healthy Living and Seniors (MHLS) has initiated an evidence-based and action-oriented provincial and coordinated outbreak response.
- **MHLS has developed a free management tool to assist the health care providers in the clinical and laboratory diagnosis and management of syphilis cases. This [tool](#) will be available on MHLS website and laminated hard copies can be ordered by faxing or emailing this ORDER FORM (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/jmc/hirorderform.pdf>) to 204-942-6212 or [informationresources@gov.mb.ca](mailto:informationresources@gov.mb.ca)**
- Although the majority of cases identified across the province are diagnosed in men having sex with men, there has been a recent increase in cases diagnosed in women.
- MHLS recommends that providers test all persons presenting with symptoms of syphilis.
- In addition to symptomatic persons, MHLS also recommends testing the following:
  - All pregnant persons as congenital syphilis is often severe, disabling, and life-threatening;
  - All persons reporting unprotected sex with casual or anonymous partners;
  - All persons requesting STI testing; and
  - All persons with any confirmed or suspected STI such as gonorrhea or chlamydia

**For more information about syphilis, access the province's online resources at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/syphilis.html>**

Please share this communication with all colleagues in your department, facility or clinic.

Sincerely,

*"Original Signed By Richard Rusk"*

Richard Rusk, MD, CCFP, MPH  
Medical Officer of Health  
Communicable Disease Control

*"Original Signed By Joss Reimer"*

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