

Mayo Clinic Minute: Concerning rise in syphilis cases across Minnesota

Video	Audio
	Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium <i>Treponema pallidum</i> .
	Dr. Stacey Rizza, an infectious disease specialist at Mayo Clinic, says syphilis affects men and women — and can present in various stages.
<b>Stacey Rizza, M.D.</b> <b>Infectious Diseases</b> <b>Mayo Clinic</b>	“Primary syphilis causes an ulcer, and this sometimes isn’t noticed because it’s painless and can be inside the vagina or on the cervix ...  ... after a few weeks, two months, they can get secondary syphilis, which is a rash.”
	It may then progress to latent stage syphilis and, finally, the most serious stage: tertiary.
	Pregnant women are not immune to syphilis. Congenital syphilis can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death. That’s why all pregnant women should be screened.
	Syphilis is treatable and preventable.
	As for prevention, Dr. Rizza recommends barrier protection during sex.
	“Then that’s during oral sex, anal sex, vaginal sex, using condoms, dental dams and any other barrier protection.”
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Joel Streed.