



Health, Healthy Living and Seniors

Public Health and Primary Health Care
Communicable Disease Control
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January 7, 2016

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**
- 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"

Joss Reimer, MD, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health
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