



Syphilis
diagnostics direct *The New Direction in Diagnostics* **Health Check™**

INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SYPHILIS AND **DIAGNOSTICS DIRECT'S SYPHILIS HEALTH CHECK:**

It is very important for you to read this brochure before you are tested for Syphilis. It will provide you with the following information:

- *What should you know before you are tested for Syphilis?*
- *What should you know about Syphilis?*
- *How can you become infected with Syphilis?*
- *How can you avoid Syphilis infection?*
- *Why should you get a Syphilis test?*
- *What should you know about your options for Syphilis testing?*
- *What should you know about Diagnostics Direct's **Syphilis Health Check** rapid Treponemal antibody test and how it is done?*
- *What should you know about your test results?*
- *Where can you get more information about Syphilis?*

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW BEFORE YOU ARE TESTED FOR SYPHILIS?

*Read this brochure carefully. If you have any further questions, or do not understand something, make sure that you ask your healthcare provider to explain it to you. Your healthcare provider is the best person to answer your questions about Syphilis. You have a choice of the type of test to be used and other testing options that are available to you. Depending on what type of Syphilis test you choose, an appropriate sample will be taken and checked for Syphilis antibodies. The Diagnostics Direct **Syphilis Health Check** rapid treponemal test uses the three recombinant antigens highly specific to the *Treponema pallidum* Organism that are bound onto the membrane strip. If Syphilis antibodies are found in your body, that means that you have been infected with Syphilis.*

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT SYPHILIS?

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. Syphilis is passed from person to person through direct contact with a person who has or has had Syphilis. In the initial stage of infection

chancres (open sores) occur mainly on the external genitals, vagina, anus, or in the rectum but can also occur on the lips and in the mouth. Transmission of the organism occurs during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Pregnant women with the disease can transmit it through the placenta to the fetus or at birth to the newborn. Many people infected with Syphilis may not have any symptoms for years yet remain at risk for complications later if they are not treated. Although transmission occurs from persons with chancres or sores who are in the primary or secondary stage, many of these chancres are unrecognized. Thus, transmission may occur from persons who are unaware they are infected.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INFECTED WITH SYPHILIS?

Syphilis is passed through contact with blood, semen, or vaginal fluids. Contact can come from unsafe sex. It can also come from exposure to blood through the sharing of used syringes or needles. Infected women can pass the bacteria to their babies during pregnancy, and childbirth. It is also possible to become infected with Syphilis through a blood transfusion, although this is now very rare. People do not become infected with Syphilis through everyday casual contact with people at school, work, home, or anywhere else. People do not become infected from eating food prepared by a Syphilis-infected person. People have not become infected with Syphilis through insect bites. People do not become infected from a toilet seat.

HOW CAN YOU AVOID SYPHILIS INFECTION?

The best way to avoid getting Syphilis is to avoid activities that would allow it to be passed to you. You can reduce the risk of becoming infected with Syphilis by the following:

- *The only way to avoid sexual exposure to Syphilis is to have sex with an uninfected partner or to abstain.*
- *If you are not certain that your sex partner is uninfected, you should use a latex condom correctly every time you have sex.*
- *Do not share needles or syringes.*

WHY SHOULD YOU GET A SYPHILIS TEST?

You may have been infected with Syphilis and not know it. If you learn that you are infected with Syphilis, you can take steps to avoid activities that will pass it on to others. It is important to find out if you are infected with Syphilis so that you can receive appropriate medical care. Once infected, you generate antibodies that can last for life, whether you have been treated or not, the Syphilis Health Check test will result as a positive. If you know you were previously infected with syphilis and were treated or not, you should have a non-treponemal (RPR) test run to determine the level of antibodies that may indicate relapse or re-infection. The Syphilis Health Check test may not be needed, and it is important to conduct a detailed risk assessment with your clinician before taking the Syphilis Health Check test.

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR OPTIONS FOR SYPHILIS TESTING?

Diagnostic Direct's SYPHILIS HEALTH CHECK RAPID TREPONEMAL ANTIBODY TEST can give you a rapid Syphilis test result in approximately 10-15 minutes. A rapid test is ideal for those situations where speed is critical, such as in an emergency room. There are other Syphilis tests available if the test results are not needed right away. These tests will use a sample of your blood, but the result may not be available for several days.

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT DIAGNOSTICS DIRECT'S SYPHILIS HEALTH CHECK RAPID TREPONEMAL ANTIBODY TEST AND HOW IT IS DONE?

Diagnostics Direct's **Syphilis Health Check** is a fast and accurate test that provides easy-to-read test results in 10-15 minutes. **Syphilis Health Check** rapid treponemal test is used to look for antibodies in a sample of your blood.

Once you decide to use **Syphilis Health Check**, your healthcare provider will prick your finger and take a drop of blood to perform the test while you wait. He or she will give you the test results during the same visit. **Syphilis Health Check** is very accurate; however, additional testing is necessary to confirm a reactive (positive) result. For more detail, you can ask your healthcare provider to give you complete information about Diagnostic Direct's **Syphilis Health Check** rapid treponemal test.

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR TEST RESULTS AFTER HAVING THE DIAGNOSTICS DIRECT'S SYPHILIS HEALTH CHECK RAPID TREPONEMAL TEST?

A Negative result means that Syphilis antibodies were not detected in your blood at the time of testing. However, this does not completely rule out the possibility of early infection with Syphilis. If, in the last one month, you have had any of the contacts described in the "HOW CAN YOU BECOME INFECTED WITH SYPHILIS" Section above, there is a possibility that you may still be infected with Syphilis. Syphilis antibodies may not appear within the first two to four weeks after contact. You should also be on the lookout for chancres (sores), rashes, and other visible lesions that appear on your body.

Ask your healthcare provider if you should consider getting tested again in the next 3 to 6 months to be sure that you are not infected. However, if you are certain that you have not had any of the contacts that could transmit Syphilis in the 3 months before your Syphilis test, a Negative test result means you were not infected with Syphilis at the time of testing. Ask your healthcare provider to help you understand what your test results mean for you.

A Preliminary Positive test result suggests that your blood may contain Syphilis antibodies. This result, however, must be confirmed by another test. If your test result is confirmed positive (Syphilis-infected), a treatment regimen can help you maintain your health. If left untreated, the organism will hide within cells and can migrate to infect other organs over years. Some people who test positive for Syphilis infection stay healthy for many years. You should tell your doctor that you are Syphilis positive, so that he or she can watch your health closely. You must take steps to protect others by practicing safe sex.

WHERE CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SYPHILIS?

If you have any questions or want additional information, ask your healthcare provider or contact your local health department.

