

## Updated Syphilis Screening Recommendations for Arizona

In light of ongoing statewide increases in [congenital syphilis](#) and syphilis in adults, the Arizona Department of Health Services has issued new recommendations for syphilis screening to improve linkage to [treatment](#).

- **NEW: Screen sexually active individuals aged 15 to 44 for syphilis annually** (adopted from [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) guidance).
- **NEW: Implement opt-out screening for syphilis** for pregnant people and people of childbearing capacity with unknown pregnancy status in Emergency Departments, Urgent Care, and other healthcare and/or outreach settings. In settings where follow-up is uncertain, it is recommended to use a rapid/point of care test and offer [same-day treatment](#) following a positive result **prior to discharge**.
- **Updated:** Include opt-out screening for syphilis in Emergency Departments, Urgent Care, and other healthcare and/or outreach settings that serve people with addiction/Substance Use Disorder.

Clinicians should continue to:

- Screen all pregnant women at first prenatal visit, third trimester, and delivery regardless of risk.
- Create electronic reminder systems for clinicians to screen for syphilis if there is no documented screening after first prenatal visit and/or after 32-week visit.
- Ensure all positive syphilis screens are followed up with appropriate treatment. Encourage those patients screening positive in the ED or Urgent Care to follow up with their primary care provider for ongoing care.
- Screen sexually active men who have sex with men (MSM) annually and every 3 to 6 months if at increased risk.
- Screen sexually active, HIV positive persons at least annually and every 3 to 6 months if at increased risk.

If you have any questions regarding the new screening recommendations please contact [sti@azdhs.gov](mailto:sti@azdhs.gov).

For more information:

- [2021 STD treatment guidelines](#)
- [2021 STD Treatment Summary](#)