

Testing for one STI? Test for all! Test for syphilis.



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

2024 syphilis case counts
in BC:



Rate increase
compared to 2019:

67%



**BCCDC STI
Physician
Consult Line**
604-707-5610

Please feel free to share
these resources with
colleagues. Additional
toolkits and/or digital copies
can be requested by emailing
sticourse@bccdc.ca

June 27, 2025

Dear provider,

Syphilis is on the rise.

British Columbia continues to experience an ongoing syphilis outbreak, which was initially declared in July 2019. The management of syphilis is centralized through the BCCDC Provincial STI Clinic, including staging, treatment recommendations, and ongoing follow-up of cases in collaboration with the managing primary care provider and/or specialists. As health care providers you play a crucial role in the detection and treatment of syphilis in the province.

As part of the Provincial Syphilis Outbreak Response, a **Syphilis Toolkit** has been developed, designed to support you in providing comprehensive, culturally safe care.

The Syphilis Toolkit includes:

- Syphilis for Healthcare Providers Handbook, a quick reference tool
- Clinic poster, to promote awareness
- Poster/desk reference for syphilis serology
- Additional resources on congenital syphilis, neurosyphilis and patient resources

Rising rates have been seen across health regions and include Indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples in BC often experience stigma, racism and discrimination within the healthcare system, violence and ongoing trauma, as well as structural and geographic barriers to accessing health services. Your dedication to providing affirming and culturally safe care for your patients will foster trusting relationships, clear communication, and follow-through with care.

As the epidemiology has been shifting, consider patients with sociodemographic risk factors such as unstable housing or substance use for syphilis screening along with other STIs. **Screening for syphilis is recommended for all sexually active persons with new or multiple partners, and/or upon request of the individual. Additionally, all pregnant persons should be screened for syphilis** as congenital syphilis has become a considerable public health concern.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to provide equitable and effective care for your patients.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kirsty Bobrow
BC Centre for Disease Control