



Cowlitz County Health & Human Services Departments

1952 9th Avenue
Longview, WA 98632
TEL (360) 414-5599
FAX (360) 425-7531
www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/hhs

Board of County Commissioners

Arne Mortensen	District 1
Dennis Weber	District 2
Joe Gardner	District 3

Provider Alert from Cowlitz County Health and Human Services Resurgence of syphilis in sexually active men and women October 19, 2017

Situation

Washington State has seen a resurgence of syphilis in sexually active men and women.

Background

Cowlitz County syphilis case numbers are on track to more than triple from 2016 to 2017.

Heterosexual transmission in Cowlitz is particularly concerning because of the risk of syphilis in pregnancy and congenital syphilis cases.

Recommendations

- Take a sexual history on all patients.
- Test for syphilis and HIV in all patients seeking an STD screening.
- Test pregnant women for syphilis during the first trimester or at the first prenatal visit. Test high risk women again in third trimester to prevent congenital syphilis.* Test MSM and their female and transgender partners for syphilis annually at minimum, every 3 months if multiple partners.

**High risk generally defined as any of the following: Positive STD test during pregnancy, multiple sex partners within the last year, any male partners that are MSM, any history of drug use, any history of exchanging sex for money, drugs, or a place to sleep.*

For the latest on diagnosis and treatment of all STD's including syphilis, see full 2015 STD treatment guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015>

If you have any questions, please call CCHHS CD Team at 360-414-5599 x 6431.

As always, thank you for your partnership.

Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH
Health Officer
Cowlitz County Health and Human Services