

February 25, 2019

Dear Health Care Provider:

RE: CONGENITAL SYPHILIS IN MANITOBA

For more detailed information, visit the Communicable Disease Management Protocol for Syphilis at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/syphilis.pdf>, and the Infectious Syphilis Management Tool at https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/syph_mgmt_tool.pdf.

CONGENITAL SYPHILIS IN MANITOBA

- There is an outbreak of Syphilis occurring in Manitoba. There is evidence of heterosexual transmission across the province, with highest rates occurring in the Northern Health Region and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.
- The number of pregnant women diagnosed with Syphilis is rising with **more than 10 infants treated for congenital Syphilis in the last six months. Lack of prenatal care and substance use have been identified as factors in these situations.**
- **Test ALL pregnant women for Syphilis within the first trimester (as well as screening for all other STBIs). Screening for Syphilis should be repeated at 28-32 weeks and again at delivery in women at high risk of acquiring Syphilis** (e.g., sex workers, those with multiple sex partners, injection drug users). Consideration can be given to repeat testing at 28-32 weeks and again at delivery in ALL pregnant women in areas experiencing heterosexual outbreaks of Syphilis.

Sincerely,

“Original Signed By”

Michael Isaac, MD
A/Chief Provincial Public Health Officer

“Original Signed By”

Richard Baydack, PhD
Director