Every year there are around 1,600 cases of syphilis in Illinois. Syphilis is transmitted through direct contact with syphilis sores during unprotected anal, oral and vaginal sex. Early symptoms of syphilis are a sore and later symptoms may be a rash, headache, fever, sore throat, aches, hair loss, and swollen joints. If syphilis is not treated, it can cause arthritis, blindness, heart disease, mental illness, and death.

Who has syphilis?

9 of 10 cases are in men

HIV Co-infection
- Sores make it easier to get HIV during sex
- About 35% of people with syphilis also are infected with HIV

Simple Testing
One blood draw

Simple Treatment
One dose of medicine for most cases

Have sex with only one uninfected partner (who only has sex with you)

Abstain from sexual activity

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health Sexually Transmitted Diseases Program