



# Interim STI Outbreak Screening Guidelines

## Guidance for Health Care Providers

Rates of Syphilis and other STBBI's are increasing in Alberta and require screening/testing, contact tracing, and treatment as per these Guidelines.

### Recommendations

For *asymptomatic* individuals who are sexually active with new, anonymous, or multiple partners<sup>1</sup>, screen as follows:

- Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Screen
  - First Void Urine or Vaginal/Cervical Swabs, AND
  - Anal and/or Pharyngeal swabs (for persons having receptive anal intercourse and/or performing oral sex)
- Serology
  - Syphilis Screen
  - HIV 1 and 2 serology (not required if known positive)
  - Hepatitis B surface antigen (if immunity or immunization status unknown)
  - Hepatitis B surface antibody (if no previous documentation of immunity. Immunity is antiHBs ≥10 IU/mL)

STI screening every three (3) to six (6) months is recommended for individuals with frequent partner change.

*Symptomatic* individuals (e.g., dysuria, vaginal or penile discharge, anogenital or oral ulcers, unexplained rashes, or lymphadenopathy) should be tested and treated at time of presentation. See [Alberta STI Treatment Guidelines](#).

### Special Considerations

- STI screening should be offered as part of regular care pathways (e.g., on admission, routine bloodwork) for programs serving populations at risk of higher STI prevalence, such as:
  - People who are incarcerated
  - People who access addiction services
  - People living with HIV
  - Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM), and transgender people
- All sexual contacts, regardless of signs or symptoms, should be tested. All sexual contacts of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis should be offered empiric treatment.<sup>2</sup> For assistance with STI/HIV partner notification, complete the [Notification of STI form](#) and submit to STI Centralized Services.
- All pregnant persons should be screened during the first trimester for syphilis, HIV, chlamydia, and gonorrhea. Rescreening for syphilis at delivery should be performed for all pregnant persons. For those with ongoing risk, syphilis screening is recommended throughout pregnancy, up to monthly, with additional screening for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and HIV in third trimester. Please refer to [Alberta Prenatal Screening Guidelines for Select Communicable Diseases](#)<sup>3</sup>.
- For Chlamydia and Gonorrhea testing, refer to: <https://www.dynalife.ca/requisitions>. For all other STI testing, refer to the appropriate APL requisition: <https://www.albertaprecisionlabs.ca/hp/Page13849.aspx>.

### References

1. Alberta Health Services & Alberta Precision Laboratories. Information on Syphilis Testing in Alberta Diagnosis of syphilis (2022). Available at: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/if-lab-information-on-syphilis-testing-in-alberta.pdf>
2. Alberta Health. Alberta Treatment Guidelines for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) in Adolescents and Adults (2018). Available at: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/treatment-guidelines-for-sti-2018>
3. Alberta Health. Alberta prenatal screening program for select communicable diseases - Open Government (2018). Available at: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-prenatal-screening-program-for-select-communicable-diseases>