



# Rapid syphilis testing

## Results within 10 minutes

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Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection caused by bacteria. You can get syphilis from direct contact with a syphilis sore or rash during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. The only way to know for sure if you have syphilis, is to get tested. Syphilis can cause serious health problems, but it can be cured with an antibiotic.

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### What is a rapid syphilis test?

- A rapid syphilis test is a test to see if a person has syphilis antibodies in their blood. The test produces results in 10 minutes and only requires a finger prick to complete.
- If a rapid test is positive then a blood draw will need to be done to confirm the results.



### What does a negative rapid syphilis test result mean?

- The test did not detect syphilis in your blood.
- This could mean you do not have syphilis or you **do** have syphilis but it was not detected by the rapid test (a false-negative result).
- It takes about 2–4 weeks after infection for the rapid test to detect syphilis in your body. However, some people may not test positive for 3 months after an exposure. If you had a sexual exposure that might put you at risk of syphilis in the past 3 months, you should repeat the test in a few weeks.

### What does a positive rapid syphilis test result mean?

- This means the test detected syphilis in your blood.
- If you've had syphilis before, it can cause a rapid test to be positive even if you don't have a new infection.
- A positive rapid test must be confirmed with a blood draw.
- If confirmatory testing is also positive, you will need treatment for syphilis.
- The agency that did your rapid test will give you further instructions on confirmatory testing and treatment options.