



Public Health Advisory

08/04/2025

Mandatory Rapid Syphilis Screening in Pregnant Persons

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SUMMARY

Situation: On July 25, 2025, the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (NV DPBH) released a technical bulletin announcing [updates to NRS 442.010, regarding Rapid Point of Care Syphilis Testing During Pregnancy](#). These amendments take effect on January 1, 2026; however, agencies are encouraged to begin implementation now.

- In 2023, Nevada ranked 6th in reported cases of congenital syphilis and 10th in primary and secondary syphilis.
- The majority of syphilis cases in Nevada syphilis occurred in Clark County in 2023: 76.4% of primary and secondary syphilis, 90.7% of early latent syphilis, and 71.4% of congenital syphilis cases.

Congenital syphilis is preventable with timely screening and treatment during pregnancy.

- 1) **All healthcare providers including physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants are required to screen for syphilis in pregnant persons:**
 - a) At the first prenatal visit, **AND**
 - b) During the third trimester (between the 27th and 36th week), **AND**
 - c) At time of delivery, including stillbirths.
 - d) Amendments under AB360 additionally require:
 - i) All persons of childbearing age must be screened by a healthcare provider for pregnancy status, and if pregnant, tested for syphilis.
 - ii) Hospitals with an emergency department or labor and delivery unit, as well as certain non-hospital medical facilities, must be able to provide syphilis test results to pregnant persons without a history of prior infection before discharge.
 - iii) If testing is declined, this refusal must be documented in the patient's medical record.
- 2) **CDC recommended treatment for syphilis in pregnant persons is benzathine penicillin G (Bicillin L-A®)**
 - a) For patients with a penicillin allergy, penicillin desensitization should be performed prior to treatment.
 - b) Alternative formulations such as penicillin G sodium, penicillin G potassium, or Bicillin® C-R are not appropriate substitutes for syphilis treatment.
 - c) If Bicillin L-A® is unavailable, especially during the [ongoing national shortage](#), please contact SNHD at 702-759-1300 for assistance.
- 3) **Report:** Syphilis is a nationally notifiable disease. Ensure timely reporting to SNHD's Disease Surveillance and Control via Phone 702-759-1300 or Fax 702-759-1454.

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Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

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