

Go along Philis!



A stylized illustration of a girl with brown hair and freckles peeking over a large, light red speech bubble. She has one eye open and is smiling slightly. Her hands are visible, resting on the top edge of the bubble. The background is a dark purple with several large, overlapping circles in various shades of red and purple. A small, curved, light orange shape is visible behind the bubble on the left side.

Hey you mob,
have you met
Phil and Philis?

The background is a deep red color with several large, overlapping circles in lighter shades of red and pink. On the right side, a cartoon illustration of a man with dark hair and a large, prominent nose is peeking out from behind a large, light red circle. He has several brown spots (acne) on his face and neck. He is looking towards the left with a slightly mischievous or knowing expression. His hands are visible, gripping the edge of the circle he is hiding behind.

**You might have,
without even knowing it...**

Philis →

Phil
↙

We are Phil and Philis,
a sexually transmitted
infection called syphilis.



We've been getting around
in Western Australia,
spreading fast throughout
the regions
and the city.



You might meet us by:

- having vaginal, anal or oral sex without protection
- rubbing up closely with someone
- sharing sex toys.



We like to hide

Most people that meet us have
no idea that we have stuck
around with them.



Most people
look good and
feel alright.

Don't ignore us

Sometimes we can give you sores on your mouth, penis, vagina or bum. This is called primary syphilis.

You might get one sore, or lots of sores.



Image source: STI ATLAS, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

The sores won't usually hurt or last long, which makes them easy to miss.



After the sores are gone, you might think that we have left, but we haven't.

Instead, we are turning into secondary syphilis. You can feel sick with a:

- fever
- body aches
- rash
- patchy hair loss
- warty growths around your bum and groin
- can have vision and hearing problems.

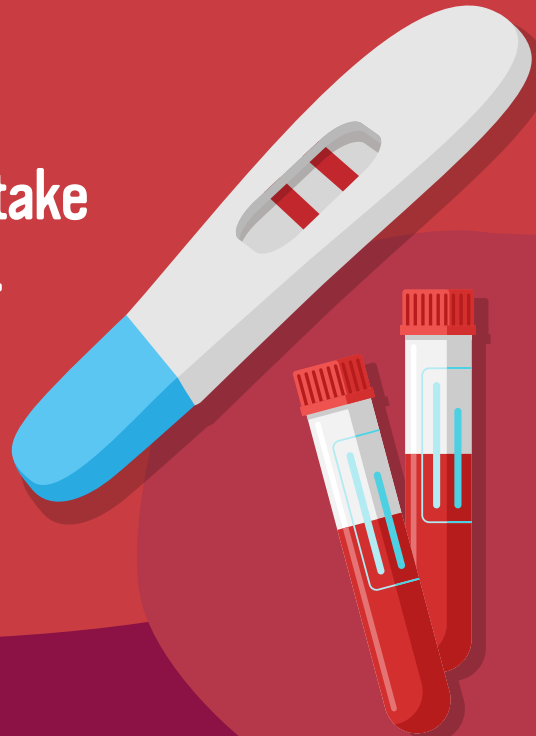


Image source: STI ATLAS, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre



Could you be pregnant?

it's important to take
a pregnancy test.



Syphilis in pregnancy can cause serious
harm to the baby, the baby could die.

So you're pregnant

If you are pregnant you will need to be tested for syphilis a few times throughout your pregnancy because we can spread to your baby.

Your baby could die, or could have serious health problems for the rest of its life like:

- bone deformity
- brain disease
- heart disease
- blindness
- loss of hearing.

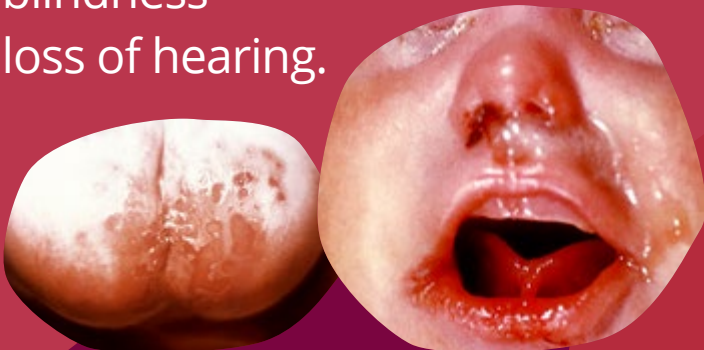
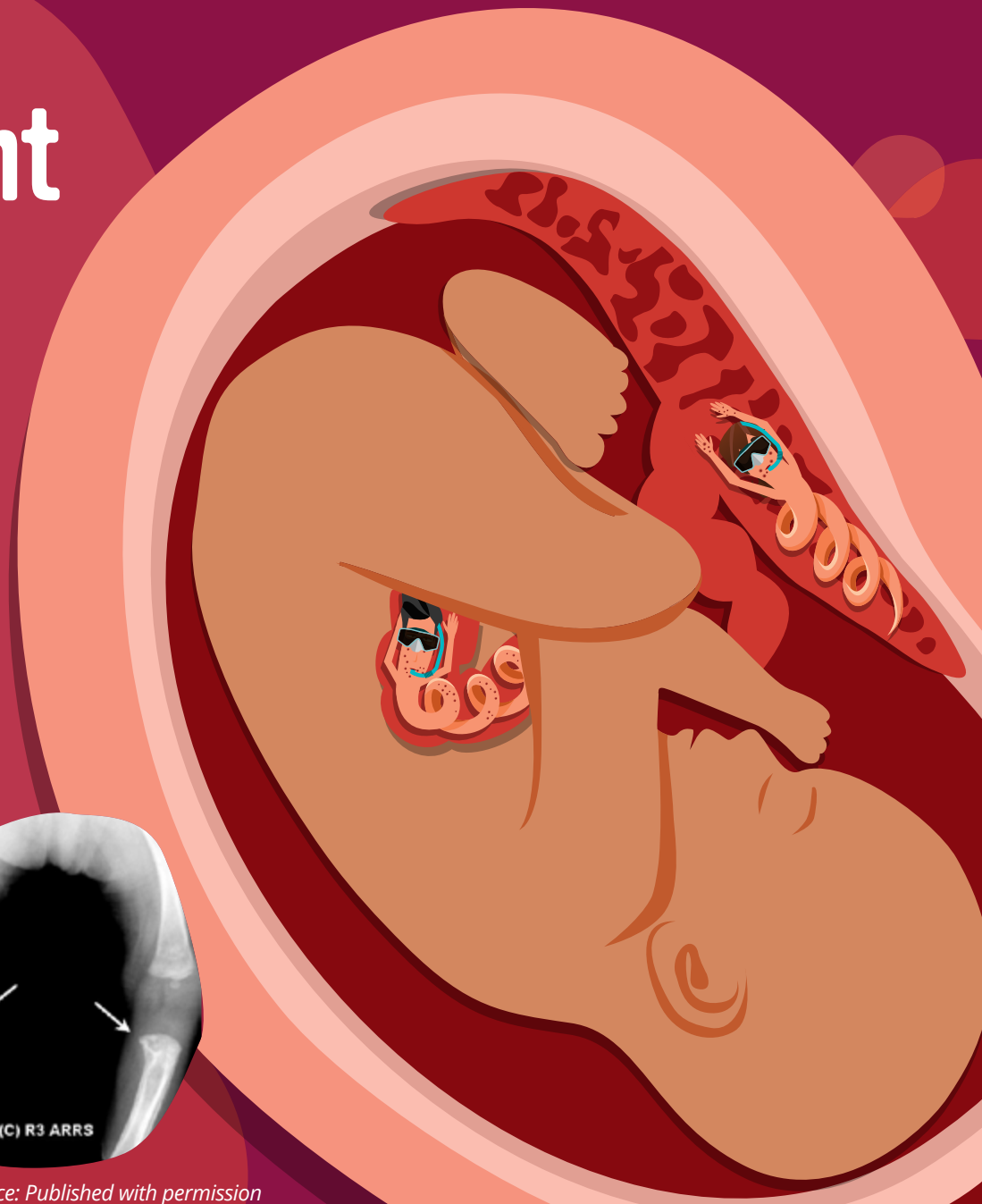


Image source: Public Health Image Library www.cdc.gov



Image source: Published with permission from LearningRadiology.com



It's just a little prick

Could you have met Phil and Philis?

If you think you have, it's important to get a simple blood test.



If you have a sore, a swab will be taken to check if it is syphilis.

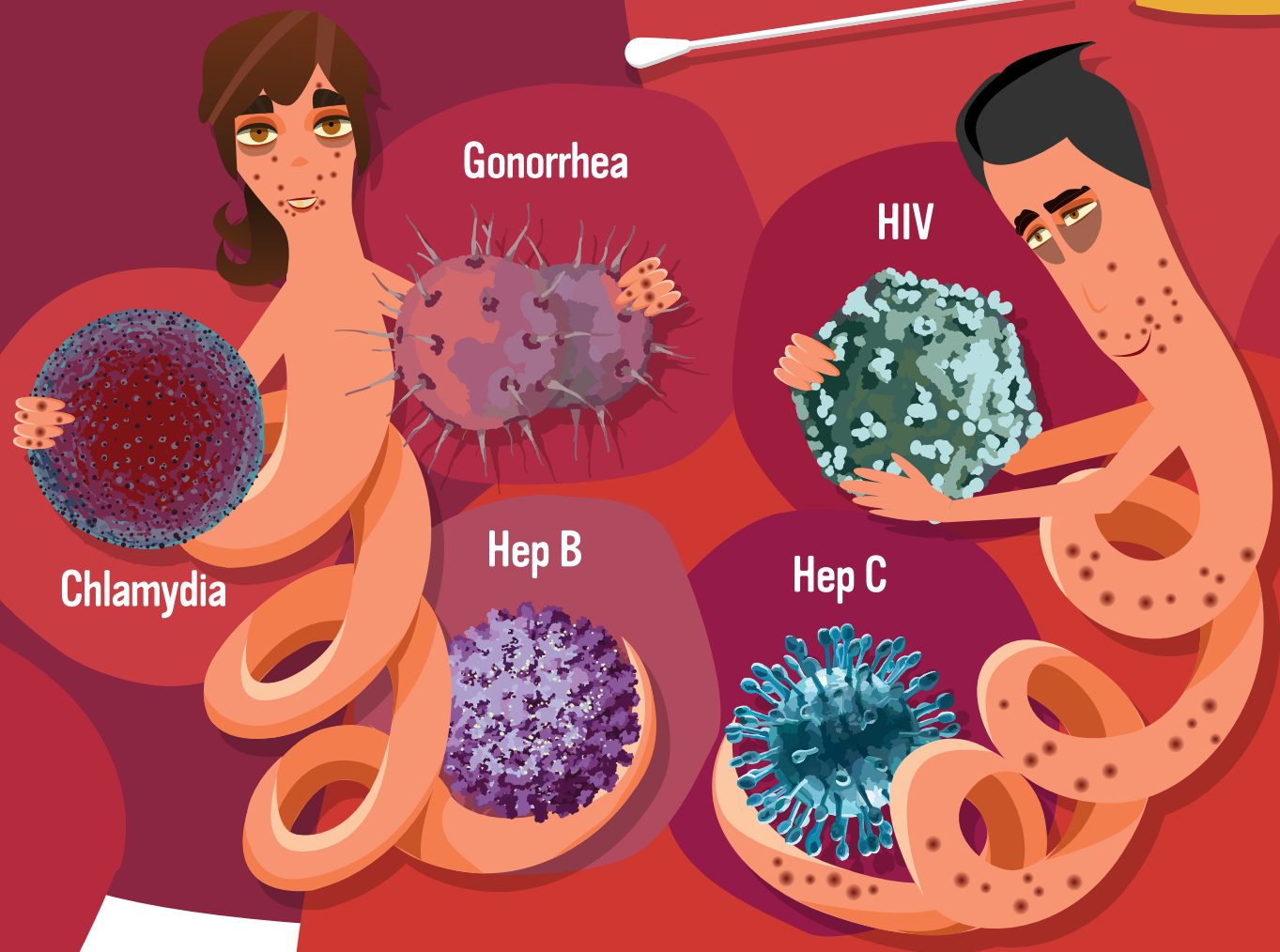


You can get this test at your local clinic, Aboriginal Medical Service or Hospital.

While you're at it

While you're there you should also get tested for other STIs and blood borne- viruses like:

- chlamydia
- gonorrhoea
- hep B
- hep C
- HIV.



We're here

So if it turns out you have met us, you will need antibiotic injections to get us to "go along".

The earlier we are found the quicker we will "go along". Remember medicine won't stop you from meeting us again.

Its important that your sex partners know they have probably met us too. This is called contact tracing.



Contact tracing

If you have been told that you have met Phil and Philis it's important you get tested and treated immediately.

It's important that sex partners know so they can get tested and treated too.

This stops Phil and Philis getting around your community.



Don't be shame

If it's too shame telling
your sex partners that
they might have Syphilis,

your Health Care
Worker can help.



What you tell your Health
Care Worker about your
sex contacts is private
business...
your name will not be
used and you will not
be shamed.



Get Phil
and Philis to
go along!

Still not tested?

You might think we have gone, but we haven't.

We're hanging around for a long time, waiting to become tertiary syphilis.



Tertiary syphilis can cause lifelong damage to your skin, bones, brain, and organs.



This cannot be undone.

Image source: Public Health Image Library (PHIL) [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

What now...

Get tested and treated to keep your community safe.



If you have tested positive remember your follow up checks to make sure your treatment has worked.

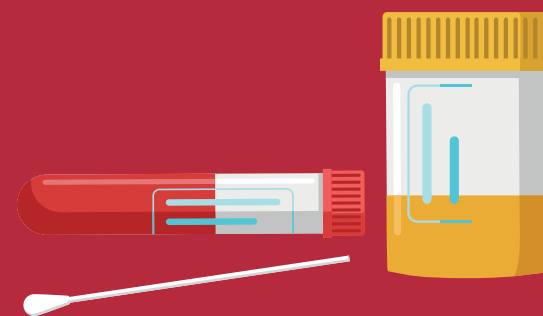


If you're pregnant, make sure you are tested early and regularly.



You're still right to have sex, just remember to:

Get an STI test every
three to six months,
or when you change
sexual partners.



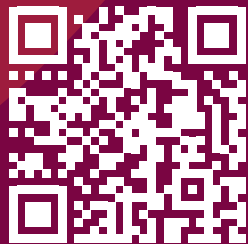
Using dental dams
for protection.



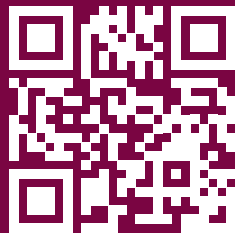
Practice safe sex
using a condom and
water-based lube.



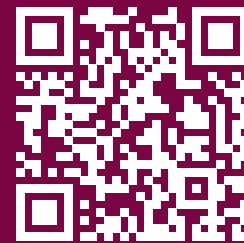
You can find out more about syphilis by speaking with a health worker or visiting:



Better to know



SHQ



Healthy Sexual DoH



**Aboriginal
Health Council**
of Western Australia



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