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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

St. Clair County Health Department

2026

SCCHD-01

ISSUE DATE: 1-20-2026

TO: Hospital ICPs, Emergency
Departments, Walk-in Clinics, OB/GYNs
FROM:

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Updated MDHHS Perinatal Screening Recommendations

St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) would like to notify healthcare providers regarding updated perinatal screening recommendations. Given the recent increases in early syphilis among heterosexual females and congenital syphilis cases, **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has strengthened its syphilis recommendations to include screening at delivery.**

MDHHS has updated its recommendations to screen for syphilis at delivery for all women. This update was informed by recent increases in Michigan congenital syphilis epidemiologic data. Screening at delivery provides an opportunity for the mother and baby to receive proper treatment before being discharged. This is especially important to identify late pregnancy infections in people who previously tested negative or were reinfected during pregnancy.

Michigan Law, [per section 333.5123 of Michigan's Public Health Code, Act No. 368](#) of the Public Acts of 1978 (amended 12/2018) requires prenatal HIV, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and syphilis screening for all women during the first trimester AND rescreening during the third trimester. MDHHS recommends third trimester screening to be done between 28 and 32 weeks.

Medical facilities are encouraged to have written policies and procedures, as well as standing orders in place to ensure that testing for HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis are done. While 333.5123 does not require hepatitis C (HCV) screening at this time, it is recommended by MDHHS, based on [American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology \(ACOG\)](#) and [Centers for Disease Control as Prevention \(CDC\)](#) recommendations.

Additional resources for all health care providers

- Work with MDHHS [disease intervention specialists](#) who can help patients overcome additional barriers to syphilis testing and treatment during pregnancy.
- Please call MDHHS HIV/STI Surveillance Unit at 313-400-2007 for a comprehensive syphilis testing and treatment record.
- For questions about MDHHS screening and treatment recommendations, please contact Aleigha Phillips, Congenital Syphilis Coordinator, at 313-316-4680 PhillipsA3@michigan.gov.
- Visit the MDHHS [perinatal HIV & STI page](#) for the most up-to-date resources.

Call SCCHD with questions at (810) 987-5300.