

Rise in Local Syphilis Cases

The Communicable Disease Section of the Rock Island County Health Dept. has identified an increase in the number of reported syphilis cases in the Quad City area.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease and occurs in 3 stages. The primary stage involves a painless sore on the genitals or the mouth an average of 3 weeks after exposure. The secondary stage begins 6 weeks to 6 months after exposure and involves a non-itchy body rash. Secondary disease may progress to a latent stage with no disease symptoms. The final stage, if untreated, can involve development of paralysis, blindness, dementia, deafness or impotence.

Syphilis can be easily diagnosed with a quick and inexpensive blood test given at your doctor's office or at a public health clinic. For further information please call Communicable Disease at 309-794-7080.