

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
SECRETARY GINA DEBLASSIE**

OCTOBER 15, 2025

Syphilis Screening in All Pregnant People and Adults Ages 18 to 50 to Prevent Congenital Syphilis

WHEREAS syphilis passed from mother to child, known as congenital syphilis, presents a major public health threat because it can lead to serious birth defects, miscarriage, and infant death;

WHEREAS, the number of reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis (the most infectious stages of the disease) and reported cases of congenital syphilis have increased steadily in the United States since 2013, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ranked New Mexico as the state with the 2nd highest rates of congenital and primary/secondary syphilis (2023 data);¹

WHEREAS, in 2023, the U.S. congenital syphilis rate was 105.8 cases per 100,000 live births (206% increase from 2018). The New Mexico congenital syphilis rate was 422.9 per 100,000 live births that year (874% increase from 2018)¹. The New Mexico Department of Health reported 91 cases of congenital syphilis in 2023 (19.7% increase from 2022 and 874% increase in the last 5 years)², with a decline to 74 congenital cases in 2024;

WHEREAS, in 2024, New Mexico achieved significant improvement with syphilis rates dropping for the first time since 2018. Primary and secondary syphilis rates dropped 31% from 36.5 per 100,000 in 2023 to 25.3 per 100,000 in 2024.

WHEREAS, syphilis is a notifiable disease in New Mexico that is required to be reported to the New Mexico Department of Health Sexually Transmitted Disease Program within 24 hours pursuant to Section 7.4.3.13 of the New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC);

WHEREAS, congenital syphilis is preventable with timely testing and treatment of the pregnant person;

WHEREAS, pregnant people are required to be tested for syphilis at their first prenatal examination pursuant to New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 1978, Section 24-1-10;

¹ [STI Statistics Archive](#) | [STI Statistics](#) | [CDC](#)

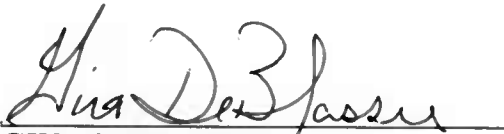
² <https://www.nmhealth.org/data/view/infectious/2950/>

- b. Syphilis testing for all pregnant people in their first trimester (or initial prenatal visit).
- c. Syphilis testing for all pregnant people in their 3rd trimester (between 28-32 weeks gestational age).
- d. Syphilis testing for all pregnant people at delivery.
- e. Syphilis testing for all pregnant people who present to an urgent care center or an emergency room if the patient has not received prior prenatal care.
- f. Syphilis testing for people with an intrauterine fetal demise at any gestational age.
- g. Syphilis testing for all pregnant people at correctional facilities, including prisons, jails, and juvenile detention centers, at the intervals and events ordered herein.

THIS ORDER supersedes any previous order, proclamation, or directives to the extent they are in conflict. This Public Order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect until such time as it automatically expires one year from the date of issuance, or until such time as the NMDOH Cabinet Secretary rescinds it.

ATTEST:

THIS 15TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2025


GINA DEBLASSIE
CABINET SECRETARY OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH