

## Syphilis Kitchen Table Discussion Guide

A kitchen table discussion is a small, informal meeting. Kitchen table discussion groups are often used in conjunction with other methods as part of a wider community engagement process. In this case, a kitchen table is being used to demonstrate and model the casual sharing of STBBI information, specifically Syphilis. Use the guiding questions to start a conversation about Syphilis.

\* Not comfortable facilitating this discussion alone, contact your local regional health authority or tribal health centre, a nurse would be happy to come along.

### **Ice Breaker (optional): Syphilis Hot Potato**

Group sits or stands in a circle and passes around a syphilis toy while music plays. When the music stops, the last person holding the syphilis has it! If they name one way to prevent the spread of syphilis they can stay in the game.

### **Kitchen Table Discussion Guiding Questions**

Key Message	Guiding Questions
Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection that can be spread between sexual partners or when injection equipment is shared.	Does anyone know what syphilis is? How is syphilis transmitted?
Syphilis may or may not show any signs of infection; signs of infection may include a skin rash or painless sores on the mouth, anus or genitals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If you have any signs get tested for syphilis.</li> </ul>	Does anyone know what some of the signs of syphilis are? Remind folks that syphilis can have no symptoms at all.
Get tested if: you or your partner have multiple sex partners, you are inject drugs, you have recently been involved with corrections, experienced homelessness, or been involved in sex work.	How do you know if you have syphilis? When should someone get tested for Syphilis?
<b>Early testing of pregnant women and treatment for syphilis greatly reduces the risk for the unborn child.</b> Children born with syphilis can face severe complications.	<b>Did you know that syphilis can be passed from a mother to her unborn child during pregnancy?</b>
<b>Syphilis can be cured with antibiotics – often with a single treatment with penicillin.</b>	What happens if you test positive for syphilis?

### **Closing Activities:**

1. Brainstorm on a flipchart: Who would you share information about Syphilis with? How would you share information about Syphilis with your friends and family? With your co-workers?
2. **Distribute posters (service providers) and outreach cards (peers).**

### Resources for Facilitators

More information about syphilis can be found here:

<https://www.catie.ca/en/fact-sheets/infections/syphilis/key-messages-syphilis>

A useful pamphlet to order from CATIE to have on hand can be found here:

<https://orders.catie.ca/book/sti-sexually-transmitted-infections/>