

# NEWS



**Eli N. Avila, MD, JD, MPH, FCLM**  
Commissioner of Health

**Steven M. Neuhaus**  
Orange County Executive

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***For Immediate Release***

September 10, 2015

***Press Contact***

Office of the Orange County Health Commissioner  
(845) 291-2332

According to the New York State Department of Health, (September 3, 2015 notification) syphilis is increasing in New York State, with a 13 percent increase in New York City and a 44 percent increase in Upstate New York. In some areas, the number of cases has more than doubled. The highest burden of cases is seen in New York City and surrounding areas. Cases are mainly among males, especially gay men and men who have sex with men.

Having unprotected sex, multiple sex partners, or a new sex partner can all increase the risk of syphilis infection, as well as other sexually transmitted diseases and HIV Infection.

Syphilis symptoms include: a large painless sore, (chancre) at the infection site (usually genitals, can also be around the rectum, mouth or other areas) and a rash, usually on the hands and feet. These symptoms will go away, but **without treatment, the infection is still present in the body.**

Syphilis infection increases the risk of getting HIV if exposed. Syphilis is easy to transmit and many people don't have symptoms. Using condoms does reduce the risk of infection.

Strategies such as serosorting or using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), to prevent HIV infection do not protect against syphilis and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Orange County Department of Health Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinics are available for STD counseling, testing and treatment. STD and HIV clinic schedules and locations are as follows:

In Newburgh: Thursdays, 3 pm to 5 pm  
Basement, 141 Broadway (The Armory)  
(845) 568-5333

In Middletown: Fridays, 1 pm to 3 pm  
First Floor, 33 Fulton Street (Fulton Plaza)  
(845) 346-1113