

# 5 Syphilis KEY MESSAGES

## 1 Syphilis Screening in Pregnancy is required under Texas Health & Safety code *three times* during every pregnancy:

1. At the first prenatal care examination
2. During the 3rd trimester - **no earlier than 28 weeks and not later than 32 Weeks**
3. At delivery

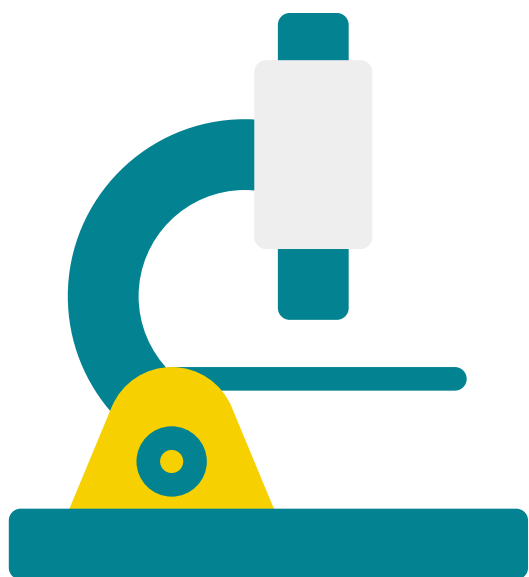
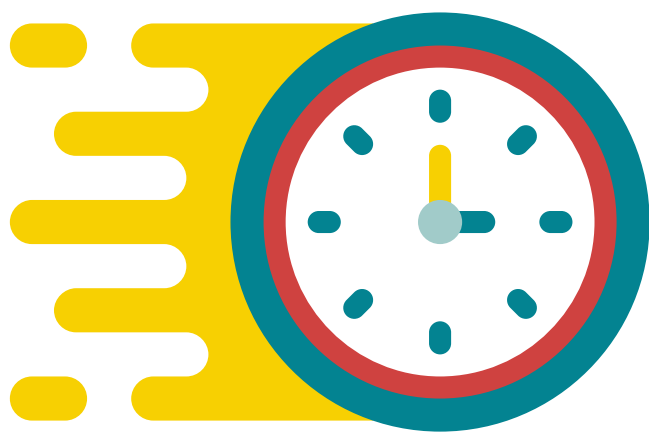


## 2 Some providers obtain a TP-PA or EIA even if the RPR is nonreactive

- Not official CDC or Metro Health guidance. Adds patient cost, can prevent new diagnosis at delivery.
- A positive TP-PA or EIA is evidence of past or present infection, even with a nonreactive RPR

## 3 In pregnancy, *timing* counts more than *titers*

Earlier treatment during pregnancy is more important than whether there is a fourfold drop in titer at delivery - One study showed that mothers with and without a 4-fold decline were equally likely to have infants with congenital syphilis.\*



## 4 Order an Immunohistochemistry (IHC) Stain

Steiner stain of placenta or umbilical cord should be ordered for newborns with possible syphilis

Suggested CPT codes:

88312 - actual stain test

88342 with modifier -59 for process

## 5 SA Metro Health Contact Info

24/7 Metro Health EPI Hotline:  
(210) 207-8876

Congenital Syphilis Reporting Line:  
\*can report maternal syphilis cases here\*  
210-207-4644

Syphilis Titer & Treatment Lookup  
(210) 207-8827 (M-F)

Metro Health STI Surveillance  
(210) 207-8831

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# METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT