

## 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 (CDC) ranked New Mexico as the state with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rates of congenital and primary/secondary syphilis (2023 data)<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, the U.S. congenital syphilis rate was 105.8 cases per 100,000 live births (2065 increase from 2018). The New Mexico congenital syphilis rate was 422.9 per 100,000 live births that year (874% increase from 2018)<sup>1</sup>. 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)<sup>2</sup>, 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**, 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 24-1010;

- A. Syphilis testing for all pregnant people in their first trimester (or initial prenatal visit).
- B. Syphilis testing for all pregnant people in their 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester (between 28-32 weeks gestational age).
- C. Syphilis testing for all pregnant people at delivery

<sup>1</sup> [STI Statistics Archive | STI Statistics | CDC](#)

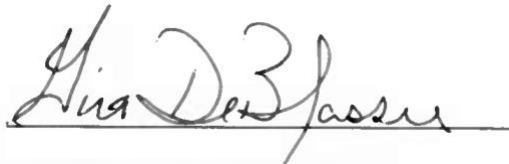
<sup>2</sup> [New Mexico STD Program Summary of Surveillance Data: 2023](#)

- D. 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.
- E. Syphilis testing for people with an intrauterine fetal demise at any gestational age.
- F. 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 15<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2025**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gina DeBlasie", written over a horizontal line.

Gina DeBlasie  
Cabinet Secretary of the State of New  
New Mexico Department of Health