



Service Provider, Community Agency

Syphilis rates 2014-2018 rose 538% in Manitoba and 151% in Canada. Cases among women and people reporting heterosexual sex is increasing. Southern Health-Santé Sud has also seen increases in syphilis rates. Initiatives across the province are underway to address the outbreak. Service providers will need to work diligently and with combined efforts to address the outbreak.

We want to take this opportunity to inform you of the initiatives and activities occurring in the Southern Health-Santé Sud Region as we work to address the needs of our community in providing equitable health care.

**Harm Reduction Supply Distribution** is a service available through all Public Health Offices. Intravenous drug use is associated with increase risk of transmitting Hep C, HIV and causing soft tissue infections. Providing safer drug use equipment is a proven effective strategy in keeping individuals safe from transmitting infections with shared/used equipment. Harm reduction philosophy goes beyond supply distribution and works at build trusting relationships with individuals by understanding people will engage in risk behaviours and have the right to comprehensive and compassionate care.

**Take Home Naloxone Kits (THNK)** are currently available in **Steinbach and Portage La Prairie**.

Individuals at risk of opioid overdose, their family and friends who meet the criteria will receive training and a THNK free of charge. Sites offering this service may change as we expand availability.

#### **Contraceptive Health Services & Safer Sex Supplies**

Safer sex supplies: Condoms (internal/external), sex dams and gloves are available to anyone at no cost.

Contraceptive Supplies are available **at no charge** to clients who experience barriers like economic hardship, power inequities, marginalized or stigmatized circumstances. This comprehensive service includes:

- Nursing assessment, education, counseling and follow up.
- Pregnancy testing
- Emergency Contraception (Plan B) – No Prescription Required
- Depo-Provera Injections – Prescription Required
- Oral contraceptives (birth control pills), intra-uterine devices (IUDs) – Prescription Required

Clients can contact Public Health with a written prescription or a practitioner can fax a referral and prescription to the community Public Health office in their area.

Please have individuals requiring services attend or contact their local Public Health office. Public Health offices are generally open Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm, but vary from community to community. Contact your local Public Health office to confirm their hours. To find your nearest Public Health office please visit [www.southernhealth.ca](http://www.southernhealth.ca).