



**MARICOPA
COUNTY**
PUBLIC HEALTH

January 02, 2026

Dear Healthcare Provider,

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health, with support from the Maricopa County Board of Health and the Arizona Department of Health Services, continues to recognize the increasing number of congenital syphilis cases among infants delivered in Maricopa County. Therefore, in accordance with ARS 36-136 (H) and (I), which states that the Department shall enforce “reasonably necessary measures for detecting, reporting, preventing and controlling communicable and preventable diseases,” the Maricopa County Department of Public Health will continue the current syphilis prevention policy for prenatal and obstetrical care through December 31, 2026.

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health therefore extends the following Order:

1. Requests that all physicians and midwives providing obstetrical services in Maricopa County perform a third trimester blood test for syphilis. The optimal time for testing during the third trimester should be 28-32 weeks of gestation. The third trimester syphilis screening test can be performed along with (or at the same time as) the third trimester glucose tolerance test. This allows adequate time for appropriate therapy prior to delivery.
2. Requires all newborns or their mothers in Maricopa County to have blood drawn for syphilis testing at the time of delivery. It is recommended that syphilis testing be performed on every infant of a mother with a reactive RPR at delivery prior to discharge from the hospital.
3. Requires a blood test for syphilis to be made on a specimen of blood taken from a woman who bore a stillborn infant or from the umbilical cord at the time of still birth delivery per ARS 36-694. For the purposes of this order, a stillborn infant shall be defined as one of 20 weeks or longer gestation.

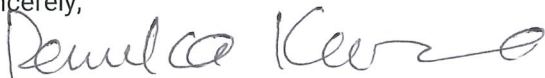
We also take this opportunity to remind you that ARS 36-693 in part requires that “A physician shall at the time of the first prenatal examination ...take or cause to be taken a sample of the blood of the woman ... for a standard serological test for syphilis.”

To assist us in reconciling our epidemiological data, the Department of Public Health requests that in addition to receiving a communicable disease report for each reactive syphilis test, **hospitals submit a monthly report** (see attachment) including the following:

- Total number of births at the facility
- Total number of births at which the mother receives a syphilis RPR test
- Total number of births with a syphilis-positive mother

For further information please contact Sabrina Sanchez at 602-506-6401. Thank you for your collaboration in the effort to eliminate the tragic and preventable consequences of congenital syphilis in Maricopa County.

Sincerely,



Renuka Khurana, MD
Clinical Services Medical Director

