**TREATMENT GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH STAFF**

**SYPHILIS (PRIMARY AND SECONDARY)**

Authorized health and wellness staff may treat laboratory-confirmed syphilis infection as follows:

1. Administer benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units in a single intramuscular (IM) dose once.   
     
   **Note:** **This must be long-acting benzathine penicillin (Bicillin L-A) only.**
2. If student is allergic to penicillin, prescribe doxycycline 100 mg po bid for 14 days.   
     
   **Note:** Doxycycline is contraindicated in pregnancy. Desensitize pregnant women and treat with benzathine penicillin G.
3. Discuss contact(s) treatment, screening for other STIs as appropriate, health department reporting requirements, and prevention of STIs and pregnancy (offer condoms and contraception as appropriate).
4. All students with syphilis should be tested for HIV infection.
5. Persons exposed within 90 days of the diagnosis of syphilis in a sexual partner should be treated presumptively, even if seronegative.
6. Schedule repeat serological testing for syphilis at 6 and 12 months after treatment. Failure of titers to decline fourfold within 6 months of treatment for syphilis indicates probable treatment failure.

**WHEN TO REFER TO THE CENTER PHYSICIAN**

* If the student has symptoms suggestive of another sexually transmitted infection
* If syphilis serology titers have not declined at least fourfold 6 months after treatment
* If student is allergic to penicillin and pregnant, desensitize and treat with penicillin