

# JULY 2019

## International Group B Strep Awareness Month

Group B Streptococcus (GBS), or *Streptococcus agalactiae*, is a type of bacteria that is naturally found in the digestive and lower reproductive tracts of both men and women. Although most women do not have any symptoms, GBS can cause pain and discomfort similar to a yeast infection or vaginitis, including vaginal burning, irritation and abnormal discharge.

While GBS can be passed to another person through sexual activity, it is not a sexually transmitted disease. Anyone can carry GBS, even those who are not sexually active.

About 1 in 4 pregnant women carry GBS. Women should be tested for GBS when they are around 35 to 37 weeks pregnant. GBS can cause many issues with birth, such as miscarriages, stillborn births, or sickness and death after the baby is born. Babies that survive GBS may develop serious health issues like blindness, deafness, mental challenges and cerebral palsy.

To get more information on how GBS affects parents and their children, visit [www.groupbstrepinternational.org/](http://www.groupbstrepinternational.org/).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<a href="#">Cord Blood Awareness Month</a> <a href="#">International Group B Strep Awareness Month</a> <a href="#">Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month</a> <a href="#">National Cleft &amp; Craniofacial Awareness &amp; Prevention Month</a>						
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7 TAKE ACTION Week 2	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 TAKE ACTION Week 3	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 TAKE ACTION Week 4	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 TAKE ACTION Week 5	29	30	31			

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