



Hepatitis B: Information and Vaccine



What Is Hepatitis B?


- Seen as a major global health problem
- Hepatitis B is a vaccine-preventable liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV)
- Infection is classified into two different types: chronic and acute





Acute (short term) Hepatitis B

- Occurs within the first 6 months of being exposed to the virus
- People who do become infected either experience no symptoms or very mild illnesses
 - Some cases might lead to very severe symptoms, leading to hospitalization



Chronic (long term) Hepatitis B

- Infected people are more likely to experience serious health problems that may include liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer, and death
- People who are younger (age 6 and below) are more likely to develop a chronic infection
- 1 in 3 children who get infected before age 6 will develop chronic infection
- Most people with chronic hepatitis B will not experience symptoms



Symptoms of Hepatitis B Infection

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Dark urine
- Clay-colored bowel movements
- Joint pain
- Jaundice (yellow color in the skin or the eyes)

Symptoms of Hepatitis B Vaccine

- Soreness where the shot is given
- Fever



How can it spread?

- Mother who has the infection passing it to her baby during birth
- Having sex with someone who is infected
- Sharing needles, syringes, or drug preparation equipment
- Sharing personal items like toothbrushes, razors, or medical equipment with a person who has hepatitis B
- Direct or indirect contact with the blood or open sores of a person who has hepatitis B



Statistics

- The United States has between 880,000 to 1.89 million people infected with HBV
 - $\frac{2}{3}$ of these people may be unaware of their infection.
- An estimated 257 million people are living with hepatitis B worldwide.
- In 2018, 1,649 deaths in the United States had HBV documented as the primary contributing cause of the deaths



Who is at risk?

- Infants born to mothers with hepatitis B
- People who inject drugs or share needles, syringes, and other types of drug equipment
- Sex partners of people with hepatitis B
- Men who have sex with men
- People who live with someone who has hepatitis B
- Health care and public safety workers exposed to blood on the job
- People on dialysis



How can you prevent Hepatitis B?

- The best way to prevent hepatitis B is by getting vaccinated
- The vaccine can be given at the same time of other vaccines
- When person is exposed to HBV, if given the vaccine as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours), it can effectively prevent infection



Hepatitis B Vaccine Schedule

- Recommended Vaccine schedule most often used in children's and adults:
- Three intramuscular injections-
- First shot can be given at any time. Newborns should be given this dose in the delivery room
- Second dose administered 1 month after first dose
- Third dose administered 6 months after first dose
- Key point: you do not need to restart the vaccine series if you missed any of the shots.



Who should be getting vaccinated?

- All infants
- Unvaccinated children aged younger than 19 years old
- Adults aging from 19-59 years old
- Adults aged 60 years and older with risk factors for hepatitis B
- People whose sex partners have hepatitis B
- Victims of sexual assault or abuse
- Health care and public safety workers at risk for exposure to blood or body fluids



Vaccine Protection and Safety

- Most people who are vaccinated with hepatitis B vaccine are immune for life.
- No evidence has been found that the hepatitis B vaccine have any harmful or life-threatening side effects such as sudden infant death or autism
- More than 1 billion doses of the vaccine have been given worldwide, it is considered one of the safest and effective vaccines ever made





Why should you get vaccinated?


- Many people with hepatitis B have no symptoms, but they can still spread the virus to others. Getting vaccinated will not only protect you but also those around you
- The vaccine provides long-term protection against clinical illness and chronic hepatitis B virus infection.
- Because of the vaccine, cases of acute hepatitis B infections have notably decreased in the United States



Contact C-ASSIST Family Health Clinic Today!
Call (313) 670-9943 for more information



 **C-ASSIST Free Family Health Clinic**

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This informational presentation was developed to
reflect the information on the CDC website:

[Hepatitis B - FAQs, Statistics, Data, & Guidelines |
CDC](#)