

Hepatitis B



Hepatitis B is a viral infection that affects the liver. It is usually contracted through blood or other bodily fluids. People can also contract the disease from a contaminated object, where the virus can live for up to 7 days. It can cause both short term and long term illnesses.

Short term:

- Loss of appetite
- Tiredness
- Diarrhea and vomiting
- Jaundice
- Pain in muscles, joints, and stomach

(Short term illnesses usually occur among adults, while children tend to not experience any symptoms)

Long term:

- Chronic Hepatitis B infection
- Liver damage
- Liver cancer
- Death

Who should get vaccinated?

Children should receive 3 doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine at the following ages:

- Birth 1-2 months 6-18 months

Adults who should receive the vaccine include:

- All unvaccinated adults
- Sex partners of people infected with Hepatitis B
- Men who have sex with men
- People who inject street drugs
- People with more than one sex partner
- People with chronic liver or kidney disease
- People under 60 years of age with diabetes
- People with jobs that expose them to human blood or other bodily fluids
- Household contacts of people infected with Hepatitis B
- Residents and staff of institutions for the developmentally disabled
- Kidney dialysis patients

- ✿ People who travel countries where Hepatitis B is common
- ✿ People with HIV infection

People who should **not** receive the vaccine include:

- ✿ Anyone with life-threatening allergy to yeast, or to any other component of the vaccine
- ✿ Anyone who has had a life-threatening allergic reaction to a previous dose of Hepatitis B Vaccine should not get another dose
- ✿ Anyone who is moderately or severely ill when a dose of vaccine is scheduled should wait until after they recover
- ✿ Pregnant women

For more information on Hepatitis B vaccination call your local or state health department's immunization program or the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by calling 1-800-232-4636 or by visiting www.cdc.gov/vaccines.