



## What is hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a serious liver disease that is caused by a virus. Some people are able to fight the infection and clear the hepatitis B virus. For others, the virus remains in their body and becomes a chronic, or lifelong illness.

Hepatitis B can cause serious health problems over time, including liver damage, liver failure, and liver cancer.

Most people who have hepatitis B have no symptoms and may not know they have it. But they can still pass hepatitis B to others.

**PREVENT HEPATITIS B.  
GET YOUR BABY VACCINATED.**

## How can you protect your baby from getting hepatitis B?

Babies born to women with hepatitis B get two shots within 12 hours of birth. One shot is the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine and the other shot is called hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG).

After getting the 3 hepatitis B shots by 6 months of age, babies will need a blood test at 9 months of age to make sure they are protected from infection and do not have hepatitis B.

Age	Your baby will need
Birth	1st dose of hepatitis B vaccine and HBIG
1-2 months	2nd dose of hepatitis B vaccine
6 months	3rd dose of hepatitis B vaccine
9-12 months	Post-vaccination serologic testing to make sure your baby is protected from hepatitis B

## Is the vaccine safe?

Hepatitis B vaccine is one the safest vaccines available. It has been around since 1982 and has proven to be safe and effective.

## What could happen if my baby isn't vaccinated?

9 out of 10 babies who get infected in the first year of life will stay infected for life. Hepatitis B can cause serious health problems like liver failure or liver cancer.

9 out of 10 babies, children, and adolescents who get the vaccine will be protected for life.



## How is hepatitis B spread?

- + **Birth** – hepatitis B can be spread from an infected mother to her baby during the birthing process.
- + **Blood** – hepatitis B can be spread through direct contact with infected blood.
- + **Sex** – hepatitis B can be spread through unprotected sex with a person that is infected with hepatitis B.

**You CANNOT get hepatitis B from coughing, sneezing, breastfeeding, food or water, kissing, hugging, or sharing utensils with someone who is infected.**



## For more information

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Call your child's healthcare provider, the local parish health unit, or visit:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
(CDC)

[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis.hbv](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis.hbv)

Immunization Action Coalition  
[www.immunize.org/hepatitis-b/](http://www.immunize.org/hepatitis-b/)



## Why should pregnant women be concerned about hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a contagious liver disease that can be easily passed from a pregnant women to her baby at birth. Fortunately, there is a vaccine to prevent babies from getting hepatitis B from their mothers.

Babies who become infected with hepatitis B have a 90% chance of developing a lifelong, chronic infection.



## Hepatitis B Information for Pregnant Women

***Hepatitis B vaccine is recommended for all children and provides lifelong protection against hepatitis B infection.***

### Contact Us

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