

Hepatitis B Vaccine

Hepatitis B vaccine is recommended for all infants and provides lifelong protection.

Your baby should receive hepatitis B vaccine at the following ages:

- Birth
- 1 – 2 months
- 6 – 18 months

Vaccines: Your best shot at prevention.

If have questions about vaccines, ask your healthcare provider.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON VACCINES AND DISEASES, VISIT

- hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/immunization
- www.immunize.org
- www.cdc.gov/vaccines
- www.aap.org

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Immunize for a better life!



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WHAT IS HEPATITIS B?

Hepatitis B (HBV) is a serious disease that attacks the liver and can cause liver failure, liver cancer and death. However, HBV is preventable with a safe and effective vaccine.

HOW DO PEOPLE GET HEPATITIS B?

HBV is found in blood and bodily fluids of people who have hepatitis B infection. HBV can be spread from mother to baby at birth. HBV also can be spread through sharing:

- toothbrushes
- razors
- needles for tattoos and piercing
- through unprotected sex

Contact with even small amounts of infected blood can cause infection. HBV is not spread by breastfeeding, coughing, sneezing, hugging or kissing.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE HBV?

All pregnant women should be tested during the first trimester of each pregnancy with a blood test to screen for HBV. This is an important step to prevent the spread of HBV to your baby at birth. Ask your healthcare provider for the results of your HBV test.

MAKE SURE YOUR BABY IS VACCINATED AT BIRTH.

The “birth dose” is the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine given to babies right after birth. This is done to protect against HBV infections in newborns. Hepatitis B infection can lead to chronic infection of the liver, resulting in lifelong risk of liver damage and liver cancer. Three doses of the hepatitis B vaccine will protect your baby against HBV. The hepatitis B vaccine is recommended and is safe for premature babies.

ARE VACCINES SAFE?

Vaccines in the United States are safe and effective. Common side effects from vaccines are minor and include soreness where the vaccine was given or a low-grade fever. Such minor symptoms are normal and should be expected as the body builds immunity. Serious reactions are very rare. Anyone who receives a vaccine should be fully informed about both the benefits and the risks. Any questions or concerns should be discussed with your healthcare provider.



Babies born to HBV-positive moms need extra care to prevent infection.

These babies need hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and additional testing at the following ages:

BIRTH:

Birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine and a dose of HBIG within 12 hours of birth

1 – 2 MONTHS:

2nd dose of HBV vaccine

6 MONTHS:

3rd dose of HBV vaccine

9 – 12 MONTHS:

Healthcare providers conduct blood tests to confirm protection against HBV

