

Iowa Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program – April 2026

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Health and
Human Services



What is Perinatal Hepatitis B?

- Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) is a liver infection that can be transmitted from a Hepatitis B positive mother to her infant at birth. Approximately 90% of infected infants become chronically infected. (Source: CDC)
- Without post exposure immunoprophylaxis, an estimated 40% of infants will develop chronic HBV infection. Of these infants, 25% will eventually die from chronic liver disease. (Source: CDC)
- Vertical transmission continues from generation to generation unless there is intervention.



Goal of the Perinatal Hepatitis B Program

Prevention of perinatal transmission of hepatitis B virus through timely vaccination and case management.

Post-exposure prophylaxis (Hep B vaccine + HBIG at birth, completion of Hep B vaccine series, post-vaccination testing for outcomes) of infants born to infected mothers is 85-95% effective when started within 12 hours of birth. (Immunize.org)



How Does a Case Start?

- **Hepatitis B is a reportable disease in Iowa.**
- Health care provider/lab required to report to Iowa HHS.
- Local public health agency (LPHA) receives email alert via Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS) of a case. LPHA completes follow-up investigation on case including determination of pregnancy status.
- LPHA notifies the Iowa HHS Perinatal Hepatitis B Coordinator of pregnant cases.



LPHA's Role Pre-Delivery

When a Local Public Health Agency (LPHA) is completing a case investigation:

- Provide education on HBV, including infant vaccination recommendations and post-vaccination serology.
- Contact hospital/OB provider to ensure arrangements for Hep B vaccine and HBIG are in place at delivery.
- Plan to follow-up with mother/OB provider near estimated date of delivery.



LPHA's Role Post-Delivery

- Follow-up with case (mother) around estimated date of delivery. Create new case in IDSS for the infant (hepatitis B perinatal) if one does not already exist. Alert Iowa HHS Perinatal Hepatitis B Coordinator of birth.
- Alternatively, the Iowa HHS Perinatal Hepatitis B Coordinator may receive notification of birth via vital records and will create case for infant in IDSS. LPHA will be notified to begin follow-up on infant's case.



LPHA's Role Post-Delivery cont.

- Contact birth hospital for stats of baby including date and time of birth, birthweight, HBIG and Hep B vaccine administration dates and times. (Important to know exact time vaccines administered-CDC recommendation is within 12 hours of birth.)
- Complete as much information in IDSS as possible. (May also document on 'Hepatitis B Carrier Follow Up' form available on Iowa HHS Immunization website.)
- Ensure on-going communication with baby's health care provider and mother to assure completion of Hep B vaccine series and post-vaccination serology testing (PVST).
- Routinely update vaccination dates, PVST results, and any other pertinent information in IDSS. Case will remain open until PVST completed.
- Contact the Iowa HHS Perinatal Hepatitis B Coordinator with questions.



Resources

- Iowa HHS Perinatal Hepatitis B Immunization Program:
<https://hhs.iowa.gov/health-prevention/vaccines-immunizations/perinatal-hepatitis-b-vaccine>
 - Perinatal Hepatitis B Program Coordinator's Guide (provides detailed guidance for case management)
 - LPHA Perinatal Hep B Case Management Flow Chart
 - Iowa HHS Hepatitis B Brochure
- Iowa HHS Epi Manual: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/health-prevention/providers-professionals/center-acute-disease-epidemiology/epi-manual>



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Questions

State Coordinator:

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