Who should get the shots?

People should get the hepB vaccine if they:

- live with someone who has HBV
- have more than one sex partner
- have a sexually transmitted disease
- are pre-dialysis, on dialysis or have end-stage renal disease
- get blood products
- have liver disease – including those with hepatitis C virus (HCV)
- have diabetes
- come into contact with blood at their jobs
- inject drugs
- have HIV
- want to be safe from getting HBV

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN TODAY BY HAVING THEM GET THEIR HEPATITIS B SHOTS!

More Vaccines?

Children who have health problems or are going outside the United States may need other vaccines. Talk to your doctor or nurse or contact your local health department to get all other needed vaccines.

Your Child's Vaccine Record

You should ask for a record of your child's vaccines. Keep it and carry it with you every time you visit your health care provider.

The Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) keeps your child's record. Your doctor or nurse can look in MCIR to see what your child needs.

Make sure your child gets every needed vaccine.

Paying for vaccines

If your child does not have health insurance, or does not have insurance that covers vaccines, ask your doctor or local health department about the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. This program is for eligible children 18 years of age and younger.

More information

For more information, call your child's doctor, your local health department, or the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program at 517-335-8122 or 800-964-4487. In southeast Michigan, call 313-456-4431 or 313-456-4432. Or, go to:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  www.cdc.gov/hepatitis
- Hepatitis B Information and Support List
  www.hblist.net
- Hep B Moms
  www.hepbmoms.org
- Immunization Action Coalition
  www.vaccineinformation.org or
  www.immunize.org/birthdose
- MDCH - Viral Hepatitis
  www.michigan.gov/hepatitis
- Vaccine Education Center
  www.chop.edu/vaccine

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Hepatitis B: What Parents Need to Know

With special information for pregnant women

What is hepatitis B virus (HBV)?

Hepatitis B is a disease caused by a virus that infects the liver. People often show no signs of having the virus. Most people who get the hepatitis B virus (HBV) get better in a few months, but some carry the virus in their blood all their lives (they are called carriers). In the United States, about 38,000 people get HBV every year, and about one million people are carriers.

Babies can get HBV at birth if their mother has HBV.

Babies and young children may also get HBV if they come into contact with blood or body fluids from their mother or from people they live with who have HBV.

The younger you are when you get HBV, the more likely you will have the disease for the rest of your life.

How do you get HBV?

You can get HBV:

- **at birth, if your mother has the virus**
- by having sex with someone who has the virus
- by sharing needles with someone who has the virus
- by sharing items that may have blood on them (razors, toothbrushes, nail clippers, ear piercing, body piercing or tattoo equipment)

One out of three people with HBV does not know how they got it.

How do you know if you have HBV?

HBV can make you feel tired or sick and can sometimes make your skin and eyes yellow.

Many people don't know they have HBV, because they don't feel or look sick. Even if you don't look or feel sick, you can still get liver disease and give HBV to others.

The only way to know if you have HBV is to get a blood test.

Women should be tested for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) during EACH pregnancy to see if they have HBV.

Is the vaccine safe?

The hepatitis B (hepB) vaccine is very safe. The most common side effect is soreness at the place where the shot was given.

Before babies are given the hepB vaccine, their parents should be given a form called *Hepatitis B Vaccine, What You Need To Know*. This form gives information about the vaccine. Parents are asked to read the form and then talk with the doctor or nurse if they have questions.

Should older children get the hep B vaccine?

All children and teenagers should get the hepB vaccine. Parents should talk to their children's doctor or nurse about getting the vaccine.

How can babies be safe from getting HBV?

If a test shows that a pregnant woman has HBV in her blood, her baby can get this virus at birth. Babies born to women who have HBV need:

- **hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and hepB vaccine WITHIN TWELVE HOURS OF BIRTH**
- **a second shot of hepB vaccine at one to two months of age**
- **a third shot at six months of age**
- **a blood test three to nine months after the last shot to make sure they are safe from getting HBV**

Babies born to women who do NOT have HBV should also get the hepB vaccine:

- starting at birth
- at one to two months of age
- at or after six months of age