



Why MI Baby Should Get... Hepatitis B Vaccine at Birth

HEPATITIS B is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). More than 1 million people in the United States have HBV, but many do not know that they have it. In Michigan, 1 in 5 babies does not get the hepatitis B (hepB) vaccine at birth.

Q. How is HBV spread?

A: HBV is spread by contact with blood or body fluids of a person with the virus. If a pregnant person has HBV, they can pass it to their baby at birth.

Babies can also get HBV if they live with or are cared for by someone with HBV. HBV is a strong virus and can live outside the body on surfaces for at least 7 days.

Q: Why does my baby need hepB vaccine at birth?

A: There are a few reasons why babies need this vaccine at birth:

- Babies are not able to fight off HBV as well as older people
- If a baby gets HBV, 9 times out of 10 they will have HBV for their entire life
- To protect them as early as possible
- To protect the baby if the childbearing person has HBV
- To protect the baby if someone else they come in contact with has HBV

Q: Is hepB vaccine safe to give at birth?

A: Yes. HepB vaccine has been around for over 30 years and is safe and effective. For more information on vaccine safety, visit www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety.

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Q: Are there side effects from the hepB vaccine?

A: There can be mild side effects to hepB vaccine. The most common are a low-grade fever and soreness or redness at the site where the shot was given.

Q: If I have HBV, what does my baby need?

A: Your baby will need:

- Hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and hepB vaccine within 12 hours of birth
- A second hepB vaccine at age 1-2 months
- A third hepB vaccine at age 6 months
- A blood test 3-6 months after the last hepB vaccine to make sure they are safe from getting HBV

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: Talk to your doctor or nurse before you leave the hospital. You can also:

- Call your local health department
- Call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP) at 517-388-4815, 517-897-326, or 517-242-8319.

Visit:

- www.michigan.gov/hepatitisb
- www.cdc.gov/hepatitis
- www.hepb.org