

Hepatitis B: Protecting Your Family from Infection & Cancer

A simple guide for busy parents & caregivers



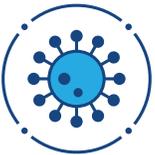
VACCINATE
YOUR FAMILY

FAST FACTS ABOUT HEPATITIS B



What is Hepatitis B?

A serious liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV) that causes inflammation and can lead to severe, long-term health problems like cirrhosis (scarring), liver cancer, liver failure, and even death.



How it Spreads

HBV is **HIGHLY** contagious and is spread when infected blood, semen, or other body fluids enter the body of an uninfected person.

Many people who have hepatitis B don't know it but can still spread it.



Hepatitis B & Long-Term Risks

Chronic hepatitis B can lead to liver cancer and premature death. Every year in the U.S., about 13,000-22,000 people are infected and about 2,000 die from their infections. About half of people with hepatitis B don't even know they're infected.



Almost **half** of liver cancers are caused by chronic infection with hepatitis B.

REMEMBER:

Vaccinating infants with the full series of hepatitis B shots, starting at birth, is cancer prevention!



WHY BABIES NEED THE HEPATITIS B VACCINE

✓ Your Baby's First Protection

- Babies infected at birth have up to a 90% chance of developing chronic hepatitis B, and 25% of those who develop chronic hepatitis B will die from the disease
- Getting vaccinated at birth gives **immediate, strong protection**
- Vaccination prevents chronic liver disease and **reduces risk of liver cancer later in life**



Protecting your baby's liver now protects their whole future!

Baby's HepB Vaccine Schedule (American Academy of Pediatrics)

Birth	1 Month	2 Months	4 Months	6 Months	8 Months	9 Months	12 Months	15 Months	18 Months
1st Dose	2nd Dose			3rd Dose					

WHY ADULTS SHOULD GET VACCINATED

✓ It's Not Too Late to Protect Yourself

Many adults were never vaccinated as children but can still benefit today. It's recommended unvaccinated adults (or those who are unsure about their vaccination status) aged 19 to 59 get vaccinated. Adults age 60 years and older with known risk factors should also get vaccinated.



✓ Adult Vaccination = Cancer Prevention

The hepatitis B vaccine protects you now and reduces your risk of liver cancer later in life. It's one of the few vaccines that **directly prevents a cancer**.

Adult Vaccine Schedule Options (American Academy of Family Physicians)

Usually involves a 2-, 3-, or 4-dose series.

2-dose series: (1 month apart)

Initial Dose	+1 Month
1st Dose	2nd Dose

3-dose series: (over 6 months)

Initial Dose	+1 Month	+6 Months
1st Dose	2nd Dose	3rd Dose

4-dose series: (accelerated schedule)

Initial Dose	+7 Days	+21-30 Days	+12 Months
1st Dose	2nd Dose	3rd Dose	Booster

Talk with a healthcare professional about the best vaccination strategy for you.

Hepatitis B vaccination protects babies and adults, and helps prevent spreading the disease, which can lead to chronic illness and liver cancer.

It's never too early, or too late, to protect you and your family!
Learn more at vaccinateyourfamily.org/hepatitis-b

