



Hepatitis B Vaccine

What you need to know about Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B vaccine can prevent **hepatitis B**.

Hepatitis B is a liver disease that can cause mild illness lasting a few weeks, or it can lead to a serious, lifelong illness.

- **Acute hepatitis B infection** is a short-term illness that can lead to fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, jaundice (yellow skin or eyes, dark urine, clay-colored bowel movements), and pain in the muscles, joints, and stomach.
- **Chronic hepatitis B infection** is a long-term illness that occurs when the hepatitis B virus remains in a person's body. Most people who go on to develop chronic hepatitis B do not have symptoms, but it is still very serious and can lead to liver damage (cirrhosis), liver cancer, and death. Chronically infected people can spread hepatitis B virus to others, even if they do not feel or look sick themselves.
- Hepatitis B is spread when blood, semen, or other body fluid infected with the hepatitis B virus enters the body of a person who is not infected. People can become infected through:
 - Birth (if a pregnant person has hepatitis B, their baby can become infected)
 - Sharing items such as razors or toothbrushes with an infected person
 - Contact with the blood or open sores of an infected person
 - Sex with an infected partner
 - Sharing needles, syringes, or other drug-injection equipment
 - Exposure to blood from needlesticks or other sharp instruments

Hepatitis B vaccine is usually given as 2, 3, or 4 shots.

Infants should get their first dose of hepatitis B vaccine at birth and will usually complete the series at 6–18 months of age. **The birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine is an important part of preventing long-term illness in infants and the spread of hepatitis B in the United States.**



Children and adolescents younger than 19 years of age who have not yet gotten the vaccine should be vaccinated.

Adults who were not vaccinated previously and want to be protected against hepatitis B can also get the vaccine. Hepatitis B vaccine is also recommended for the following people:

- People whose sex partners have hepatitis B
- Sexually active persons who are not in a long-term, monogamous relationship
- People seeking evaluation or treatment for a sexually transmitted disease
- Victims of sexual assault or abuse
- Men who have sexual contact with other men
- People who share needles, syringes, or other drug-injection equipment
- People who live with someone infected with the hepatitis B virus
- Health care and public safety workers at risk for exposure to blood or body fluids
- Residents and staff of facilities for developmentally disabled people
- People living in jail or prison
- Travelers to regions with increased rates of hepatitis B
- People with chronic liver disease, kidney disease on dialysis, HIV infection, infection with hepatitis C, or diabetes

Data Sourced from CDC, PA-AAP Report on 2021 SILR Data



Hepatitis B vaccine may be given as a stand-alone vaccine, or as part of a combination vaccine. Hepatitis B vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.



Pennsylvania Chapter

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WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER VACCINATION

It's normal to experience immune response after vaccination, this is how you know the vaccine is doing its job. These side effects are usually mild and disappear on their own in a few days. Some normal immune responses for hep B vaccine include:



Soreness, redness, or swelling at injection sight



Headache



Fever

Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of hepatitis B vaccine**, or has any severe, life-threatening allergies
- In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone hepatitis B vaccination until a future visit.
- Pregnant or breastfeeding people should be vaccinated if they are at risk for getting hepatitis B. Pregnancy or breastfeeding are not reasons to avoid hepatitis B vaccination.
- People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting hepatitis B vaccine.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

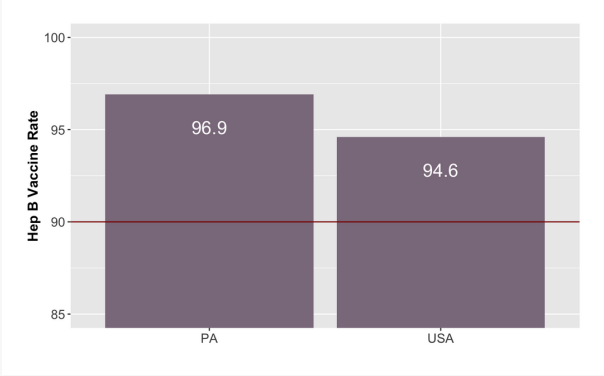
As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

Hep B Vaccination Rates

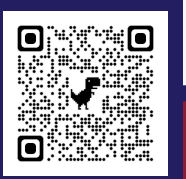
The Healthy People 2020 goal for hepatitis B (hep B) vaccination coverage is **90%** for children by age 19 to 35 months

*Pennsylvania state and county data are taken from PAAAP Routine Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Report by Pennsylvania County 2018-2021; national data are taken from CDC estimates.

Percentage of Kindergarteners who had received 3 doses of hep B vaccine by 2020-21 school year in PA and USA*



Scan the QR code to connect with the Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition or a local coalition near you!



For more vaccine information go to: immunizepa.org