

If I have Hepatitis B, what can I do to protect my baby?

- Inform the nurses and doctors at the hospital where you will deliver your baby.
- Make sure your baby receives the Hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) vaccine within 12 hours of birth.

Time Infant born to mother with Hepatitis B should receive:

At birth	Birth dose of Hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) vaccine
1 month	2nd dose of Hepatitis B vaccine
6 months	3rd dose of Hepatitis B vaccine

One to two months after the last vaccine, your baby should have a blood test to ensure the vaccine worked.

Even if you don't have Hepatitis B, your baby should still receive the Hepatitis B vaccine series to protect him or her in the future.

Perinatal Hepatitis B

For more information regarding Perinatal Hepatitis B, please call:
817-321-4882



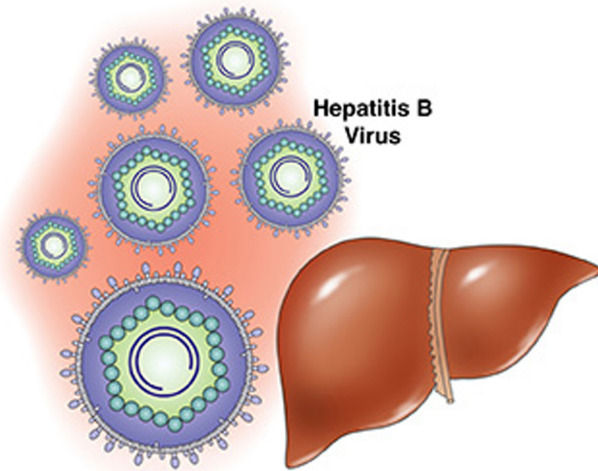
Tarrant County Public Health
A Nationally Accredited Health Department



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Hepatitis B vaccine can save your baby's life





Hepatitis B Virus

What is Hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a highly infectious virus that attacks the liver and can cause liver disease, cancer and death.

“Hepatitis” means inflammation of the liver. The liver is a vital organ that processes nutrients, filters the blood and fights infections. When the liver is inflamed or damaged, its function can be affected.

What are symptoms of acute Hepatitis B?

Not everyone has symptoms with acute Hepatitis B. Most adults have symptoms that appear within three months of exposure. Symptoms can last from a few weeks to several months and could include:

- fever
- abdominal pain
- dark urine
- nausea
- gray-colored stools
- jaundice

How does Hepatitis B spread?

Hepatitis B is spread through contacting the blood or body fluids of an infected person.

Hepatitis B can also be spread by:

- a Hepatitis B-infected mother to her child during birth
- having unprotected sex
- having contact with blood or open sores of an Hepatitis B-infected person
- getting bit by a Hepatitis B-infected person
- sharing personal care items such as razors, nail clippers and toothbrushes
- using the same immunization needle with others
- using unsterilized needles for body piercing or tattooing

Hepatitis B is NOT spread by:

- eating food prepared by an infected person
- kissing or hugging
- sneezing or coughing
- sharing silverware, plates or cups
- breastfeeding

How do I know if I have Hepatitis B?

The only way to know is through blood tests. Healthcare providers should provide Hepatitis B testing during pregnancy and at delivery for all pregnant women.

Who should be tested for Hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B testing is recommended for:

- People who were born in some Asian countries, especially Southeast Asia and whose parents were born in these Asian countries.
- People who live with someone who has Hepatitis B.
- People who have other risk factors for exposure to Hepatitis B, such as a history of intravenous drug use, sexually transmitted diseases and body piercing or tattooing with unsterile equipment.

Why is Hepatitis B so serious in pregnant women?

Hepatitis B-infected mother can transmit the disease to their baby at the time of birth. Without proper vaccinations, many of them develop life-long Hepatitis B infections.

