

**UNIVERSAL VACCINATION
RECOMMENDED**

Hepatitis B vaccinations are now recommended for all infants and children up to 18 years by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Because so many carriers are unaware of their infection, the Hepatitis B Foundation recommends everyone should discuss vaccination with their health care provider.

Hepatitis B is a disease that is entirely preventable through vaccination

**A VACCINE
NOT A CURE**

The vaccine cannot help if you've already been infected with hepatitis B. Those who recover without complications are protected through natural immunity. For those who are chronic carriers, be sure your loved ones are vaccinated.

CAUSE FOR A CURE

The Hepatitis B Foundation is a national non-profit organization dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B worldwide. Our commitment includes funding focused research, promoting disease awareness, supporting immunization and treatment initiatives, and serving as the primary source of information for patients and their families, the medical and scientific community, and the general public. Dr. Baruch Blumberg, who received the Nobel Prize for discovering the hepatitis B virus, is one of the co-founders of the organization.

*For more information please
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Hepatitis B Foundation
Cause for a Cure

**PROTECT
YOURSELF
AND
THOSE YOU
LOVE
AGAINST
HEPATITIS B**

A message from the



Hepatitis B Foundation

Cause for a Cure

A MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEM

Hepatitis B is a disease which chronically infects 400 million people worldwide and is a growing concern in America. It is estimated that 1 out of 20 Americans has been infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV) and that there are over one million Americans who are chronic carriers of HBV.

Approximately 5,000 deaths a year in the U.S. are attributed to liver disease caused by HBV, and one health care worker dies each day from this disease. Hepatitis B is spreading because many chronic carriers of the virus are unaware they are infected and unknowingly transmit it to those who are in close contact with them.

ABOUT HEPATITIS B

Hepatitis B is the world's most common, serious liver infection.

It is caused by a virus which can be transmitted through blood, sex, shared needles and from an infected mother to her newborn during delivery. Of those persons infected with HBV, the majority will never develop any symptoms, some may experience flu-like symptoms, extreme fatigue or jaundice, and very rarely one may become acutely ill with fatal liver disease.

THERE IS A VACCINE

You can protect yourself and loved ones against hepatitis B infection with a safe and effective vaccine that is administered as two or three shots over six months. The vaccine has few minor side effects, the most common being soreness at the injection site.

There are currently two vaccines available, and both are synthetic, yeast-based products which have been FDA approved since 1986 and 1989. You cannot get hepatitis B from the vaccine.

PEOPLE AT GREATEST RISK

If you belong in one of the following groups, be sure to discuss HBV vaccination with your healthcare provider or local health clinic.

- *Sexually active adults and teenagers*
- *Men who have sex with men*
- *All infants born to mothers who have HBV at time of delivery*
- *People who share needles*
- *Household contacts and sexual partners of HBV carriers*
- *Health care workers, emergency personnel and institutional personnel*
- *Families adopting children from countries where HBV is common (Asia, Eastern Europe, South America, Africa)*
- *Travelers to countries where HBV is common*
- *All people who are unsure about their potential risk factors*
- *Individuals undergoing kidney dialysis*
- *Individuals who received a blood transfusion prior to 1992*