

Should I vaccinate my newborn for Hepatitis B?

YES!

The vaccine is effective: The vaccine is 90% effective in preventing Hepatitis B infection when given the day the baby is born. Since 1991, Hepatitis B infections in children have decreased by 99% because of the vaccine.

Since 1991,

99% decrease in HepB

The vaccine is very safe: Most babies born in the US since 1991 got the Hepatitis B vaccine, and so we know it is extremely safe because we have lots of data showing it is safe from millions of people. Hepatitis B infection is dangerous – and the vaccine protects babies from that danger.

Your doctors recommend it: Ask your doctor, “Is this vaccine safe?” and “Would you vaccinate your baby?” Doctors across the United States will say “Yes!”

Who has Hepatitis B?

About 2.4 million people have Hepatitis B in the United States, and worldwide 2 billion people have the infection.



2.4 million infections in the US

Over half of the people in the US who have Hepatitis B infection do not know they are infected.

Because people don't know they are infected, they can infect others. It is very important to get vaccinated to prevent this infection.

Your baby can get the infection from others: Before the vaccine existed, about half of all Hepatitis B infections in newborns came from contact with someone else besides the mother, so even if you do not think you have Hepatitis B, it is still a good idea to get your baby vaccinated.

The best way to protect your baby is to get you and your baby vaccinated!

How do I get my child vaccinated?



1st Dose at birth: When you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about vaccination at birth.



2nd and 3rd Dose at well-child visits: Well-child visits are important to check on your baby's growth and health, and to get vaccinations.

Are you worried about bringing your baby to the clinic because of safety or immigration concerns?

There may be more options for you.

- ✓ Ask about mobile clinics and health fairs
- ✓ Ask about after-hours clinics, when you may feel safer
- ✓ Talk to your doctor about house visits with a nurse, if possible
- ✓ Ask your doctor to enroll you in Health Network to get help finding care that works for you.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Migrant Clinicians Network:
www.migrantclinician.org



Health Network is a program of Migrant Clinicians Network.



- HN@migrantclinician.org
- (512) 327-2017
- Medical and Confidential Fax: (888) 491-2194

Updated: January 8, 2026



Newborns and the Hepatitis B Vaccine

Don't take the risk. Vaccinate your baby against Hepatitis B!



Hepatitis B Vaccine for Newborns

Newborns receive 3 doses.

1. At birth.

2. Between 1 and 2 months old.

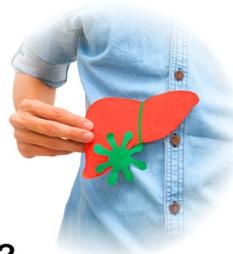
3. Between 6 and 18 months old.

If your baby did not get the first dose at birth, your baby can still get vaccinated! Ask your doctor to start right away. Your doctor will share with you how many weeks between doses.

What you should know about Hepatitis B

What is Hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is an infection of the liver. It can lead to liver failure, cancer, and death. It is highly infectious.



What does my liver do?

The liver is the main organ which purifies our bodies. The liver has many tasks, like cleaning our blood and removing waste. It helps digest food, helps you have energy, and protects you from germs.

How is Hepatitis B spread?

Hepatitis B spreads through bodily fluids like blood. People spread it when:

- giving birth (if the parent has Hepatitis B),
- sharing needles or getting injured by a needlestick,
- getting unsterile piercings or tattoos,
- contact with open sores,
- sharing razors, toothbrushes, or nail clippers,
- and having unprotected sex.

Hepatitis B Is NOT Spread By:

Hugging, sneezing, coughing, and sharing food or drinks does NOT spread Hepatitis B.



What you should know about the vaccine

Why do babies need a Hepatitis B vaccine?

15-25% of babies who get a chronic Hepatitis B infection will die from Hepatitis B.



Children often have no symptoms, so the virus can spread without anyone realizing it.

What protection does the Hepatitis B vaccine provide?



- Protects children before they encounter the virus.
- Protects babies early in their life. If you contract Hepatitis B in the first years, it is more likely to have a lifelong infection.
- Prevents severe disease.



Vaccination is safe and has been used for many years. If you are a mother or father who grew up in the US, **you likely received this vaccine as a newborn!**

The vaccine has been in the news because some people think that not all babies need the vaccine. But we think that it is a risk you don't need to take. The vaccine is safe, and it prevents a disease that causes lifelong harm and death.

DON'T RISK YOUR BABY'S HEALTH. GET THE HEPATITIS B VACCINE.