

Does the vaccine have side effects?

The most common side effects are mild and may include pain and redness at the injection site. More serious side effects are rare. Talk to your healthcare provider.

Protect yourself against
hepatitis B.
Get vaccinated!

Where can I get hepatitis B shots?

Ask your healthcare provider to vaccinate you against this disease. Some school clinics also offer these shots. If you don't have a healthcare provider or school clinic or can't afford vaccinations, contact your city or county health department.

Do I need any other shots?

Maybe. Vaccines can protect you against many serious diseases including chickenpox, tetanus, diphtheria, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis A, and influenza. Ask your healthcare provider to help you figure out which vaccinations you need.

Everyone needs vaccinations!

If you can't afford vaccinations or don't know where to get them, contact your city, county, or state health department, or call the CDC-INFO Contact Center at (800) 232-4636.



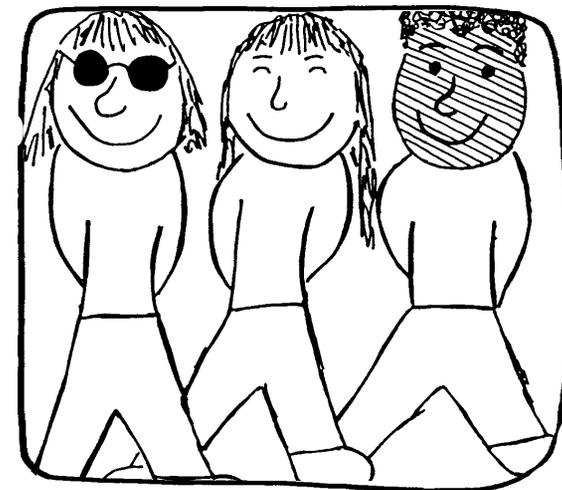
You can get more information about hepatitis B at www.vaccineinformation.org or www.cdc.gov/hepatitis

Immunization Action Coalition

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The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) encourages you to make and distribute copies of this brochure. If you alter it, please acknowledge that it was adapted from IAC. The technical content was reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Every day,
teens are
infected with
hepatitis B virus



Be sure you're
vaccinated against
this disease!

What is hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a serious liver disease caused by hepatitis B virus (HBV). The virus can enter the blood stream, attack the liver, and cause severe illness — even death. In some cases, the virus can remain in the body for a lifetime and cause ongoing liver damage, including liver cancer.

A.J. was 15 years old when she died of hepatitis B. Her family had big dreams for her. A few simple shots could have saved her life.

How do teens get hepatitis B?

Lots of ways. HBV is spread by

- having sex with an infected person
- coming in contact with blood of an infected person (e.g., sharing needles, toothbrushes, razors, or washcloths)
- getting a tattoo or body piercing with unsterile equipment

You do NOT get infected with HBV from sneezing, coughing, hugging, kissing, or holding hands.

Will I feel really sick if I get hepatitis B?

Different people get different symptoms. You could get extremely sick (one out of three people do). Your symptoms may include any of the following:

- Yellowish tinged skin and eyes
- A bloated belly that hurts
- Loss of appetite
- Extreme tiredness
- A feeling that you want to vomit
- Fever
- Dark-colored urine
- A rash all over your body

Some infected people never feel sick. They can still infect others and can develop severe liver disease later on. If you think you may have been infected, talk to your healthcare provider.

Do many people get hepatitis B?

Each year in the United States, HBV infects about 70,000 — including teens! More than 1.25 million people in the United States carry HBV in their blood, and about 5,000 people will die each year from hepatitis B.

HBV infects one out of every 20 Americans at some time during their lives.

How do I protect myself against hepatitis B?

Get vaccinated. Three shots are usually given over a six-month period and will protect you from hepatitis B. There is also a two-shot series that can be given to 11–15 year olds.

How safe is hepatitis B vaccine?

The hepatitis B vaccine is one of the safest vaccines available. This vaccine has been used in the U.S. since 1982. It's been given to more than 70 million children and adults in the U.S., and more than one billion doses have been administered worldwide.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend hepatitis B vaccine for all children and teens 0–18 years of age.