

Hepatitis B is caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV)

U.S. Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Estimated 43,000 new infections in 2007 → Estimated 1.2 million people are living with chronic HBV infection
Routes of Transmission	<p>Contact with infectious blood, semen, and other body fluids. Primarily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Birth to an infected mother → Sexual contact with an infected person → Sharing contaminated needles, syringes, or other drug equipment → Needlesticks or other sharp instrument injuries
Persons at Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Infants born to infected mothers → Sex partners of infected persons → Persons with multiple sex partners → Persons with a sexually transmitted disease → Men who have sex with men → Injection drug users → Household contacts of infected persons → Healthcare and public safety workers exposed to blood on the job → Hemodialysis patients → Residents and staff of facilities for developmentally disabled persons → Travelers to regions with intermediate or high rates of HBV
Incubation Period	<p>Time between exposure and onset of symptoms: 45 to 160 days (average 120 days)</p>
Symptoms of Acute (new) Infection	<p>One or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Abdominal Pain → Vomiting → Fever → Gray-colored bowel movements → Fatigue → Joint pain → Loss of appetite → Jaundice → Nausea
Likelihood of Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Less than 1% of infants less than 1 year old develop symptoms → 5-15% of children age 1-5 years old develop symptoms → 30-50% of persons older than 5 years of age develop symptoms <p>Note: Symptoms appear in 5-15% of newly infected adults who are immunosuppressed</p>
Potential for Chronic Infection	<p>Among unimmunized persons, chronic infection occurs in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Over 90% of infants → 25-50% of children aged 1-5 → 6-10% of older children and adults
Severity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Most people recover with no lasting liver damage; Acute illness is rarely fatal → 15-25% of chronically infected persons develop chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis, liver failure, or liver cancer → Estimated 3,000 persons in the US die from HBV-related illness per year
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Acute: No medication is available; best addressed through supportive treatment → Chronic: Regular monitoring for signs of liver disease progression; some patients are treated with antiviral drugs

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Vaccination Recommendations	Hepatitis B vaccine is recommended for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ All infants at birth→ Older children who have not previously been vaccinated→ Susceptible sex partners of infected persons→ Persons with multiple sex partners→ Persons seeking evaluation or treatment for an STD→ Men who have sex with men→ Injection drug users→ Susceptible household contacts of infected persons→ Healthcare and public safety workers exposed to blood on the job→ Persons with chronic liver disease, including HCV-infected persons with chronic liver disease→ Persons with HIV infection→ Persons with end-stage renal disease, including predialysis, hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and home dialysis patients→ Residents and staff of facilities for developmentally disabled persons→ Travelers to regions with intermediate or high rates of Hepatitis B (HBsAg prevalence of 2%)→ Anyone else seeking long-term protection
Vaccine Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Infants and children: 3 to 4 doses given over a 6- to 18-month period depending on vaccine type and schedule→ Adults: 3 doses given over a 6-month period



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