

# Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is the most reported blood-borne infection in the United States, triggering significant complications such as liver disease, liver failure, liver cancer, and even death if left untreated.

## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Many people with HBV do not have any symptoms but other individuals may experience:



- Dark-colored urine
- Yellowing of skin and eyes (jaundice)
- Muscle or joint pain



- Fever
- Headache
- Abdominal pain



- Diarrhea
- Nausea
- Vomiting



- Loss of appetite
- Fatigue
- Clay-colored bowel movements

**HOW DOES HEPATITIS C SPREAD?** HCV spreads when blood from an infected person enters the body of someone who is not infected.

- Sharing drug equipment
- Mother to baby
- Healthcare exposure
- Sexual exposure
- Unregulated tattoos/body piercings
- Sharing personal items
- Blood transfusion/organ transplant

## WHO SHOULD BE TESTED FOR HEPATITIS C?

- Adults 18+
- Pregnant women during each pregnancy
- Individuals who are currently or have ever used injection drugs
- HIV+ persons
- Children born to HCV+ mothers
- Hemodialysis recipients
- Blood transfusion or organ transplant recipients before 1992
- Individuals with abnormal ALTs
- Individuals with clotting factors before 1987
- Individuals exposed to blood from a person who has HCV
- Anyone requesting HCV testing

**IS THERE A CURE FOR HEPATITIS C?** Although there is no vaccine to prevent HCV, there is life-saving treatment that can cure most people with HCV in 8-12 weeks.



Scan the QR code to view more information on HCV testing recommendations.