

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is the leading cause of liver-related morbidity and mortality around the world. HBV can cause liver failure, liver cancer, cirrhosis, 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 B SPREAD?

HBV is spread through contact with blood or body fluids (semen, vaginal fluid, saliva) of an HBV infected person. HBV can also be transmitted from an infected mother to her baby at birth.



Contact with blood, body fluids of infected person



Infected mother to baby at birth

HOW TO PREVENT THE SPREAD?



Getting the HBV vaccination



Using protection while engaging in all sexual activity



Not using personal items that may have come into contact with an infected person's blood



Avoiding the sharing or reusing of drug equipment



Not getting tattoos or body piercings from an unregulated facility

WHO SHOULD BE SCREENED AND TESTED?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends:

Adults

Screening all adults aged 18 years and older at least once in their lifetime

During Pregnancy

Screening pregnant women during each pregnancy

Infants

Infants born to HBsAg+ people

By Request

Anyone who requests HBV testing

Expanding Testing

Expanding periodic risk-based testing to include people who are incarcerated, people with a history of sexually transmitted infections or multiple sexual partners, or people with hepatitis C infection (HCV).

WHO SHOULD BE VACCINATED?

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends HBV vaccination for the following people.

Infants

All infants

Children

Unvaccinated children aged <19 years

Adults

Adults aged 19-59 years

Seniors

Adults aged 60 years and older with risk factors for HBV



Scan this QR code to view more information on hepatitis B testing recommendations.

