

## What is hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a virus that attacks the liver. If left untreated, it can lead to liver failure and cancer.

An estimated 296 million people are living with hepatitis B worldwide. Many people don't know they are infected because they don't feel or look sick.

The hepatitis B virus is passed from person to person through infected blood or certain body fluids.

## Hepatitis B and pregnancy

If you are pregnant, you should get a blood test for hepatitis B as part of your prenatal care.

You can transmit hepatitis B to your newborn during birth if you are infected.

If you are pregnant and have hepatitis B, your baby can get a set of shots starting at birth to prevent infection.



### For more information:

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**  
[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/)

**HepB Moms**  
[www.hepbmoms.org](http://www.hepbmoms.org) (English)



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Source: CDC, Protect Your Baby for Life

# Hepatitis B:

## What you need to know to protect you and your baby





## Protect your baby and prevent hepatitis B

Your baby should get the first hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth.

If you are hepatitis B positive, your baby must get hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) within 12 hours of being born.

Your baby needs all 3 hepatitis B vaccines and HBIG shot to protect them from hepatitis B. Test your baby at 9–12 months to confirm your baby is protected.

Date due	Infant born to pregnant person with hepatitis B should receive
At birth	Birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG)
1–2 months	2nd dose of hepatitis B vaccine
6 months	3rd dose of hepatitis B vaccine
9–12 months	Test to confirm that your child is protected

Here are other ways to protect your baby:

- You can still breastfeed your baby if you have hepatitis B. Talk with your doctor if you develop cracked and bleeding nipples, there are options to help you while you breastfeed.
- Keep your hepatitis B vaccine record and bring it to your medical visits.
- Get your family members tested and vaccinated for hepatitis B.

## If you do not have hepatitis B

You can still protect yourself and your baby with a safe and effective vaccine. Be sure to complete the series!

Date due	Infant should receive
At birth	Birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine
1–2 months	2nd dose of hepatitis B vaccine
6 months	3rd dose of hepatitis B vaccine

## Take care of yourself if you have hepatitis B

You may need additional tests to check your liver health and see if you need treatment.

Medications, called antivirals, can treat many people with hepatitis B. However, not everyone needs treatment.

Ask a doctor before taking any prescription, over-the-counter medications, supplements, or vitamins because some drugs can potentially damage the liver.

You may also benefit from the hepatitis A vaccine. Continue to see a doctor after giving birth to monitor your infection.

## Is hepatitis B dangerous for my baby?

When babies become infected with hepatitis B, they have about a 90% chance of developing a lifelong, chronic infection.

Left untreated, about 1 in 4 children who have chronic hepatitis B will develop serious liver problems such as liver damage, liver disease, or liver cancer.

Fortunately, hepatitis B infection can be prevented with a very safe and effective vaccine.