

Hepatitis B (HBV)

What is Hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a virus that infects the liver. It is commonly referred to as “Hep B”. Approximately 10% of individuals who are infected become chronic carriers and are contagious for life

Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms can appear from 6 weeks to 6 months after being exposed, usually around 90 days and include:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Dark urine
- Clay-colored stool
- Abdominal pain
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Myalgia
- Arthralgia
- Jaundice (yellowing of skin/eyes)

Most individuals with Hep B are contagious for approximately 6 months

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider

Transmission (How it spreads)

- Exposure to infectious blood and/or bodily fluids
- Sex with an infected partner
- Injection drug use and needle sticks
- Birth to an infected mother
- Contact with open sores of an infected person
- Sharing razors, toothbrushes with an infected person

Diagnosis and Treatment

Blood test

Antiviral drugs

Prevention:

- Vaccination!

Get tested if you have:

- Injected drugs intravenously (IV drug use)
- Received a blood transfusion or organ transplant prior to 1992
- Been diagnosed with HIV
- Received long-term hemodialysis treatment
- Signs or symptoms of liver disease
- Had a known exposure
- Born to an HBV-positive mother, or live with an infected person
- Multiple sex partners
- Currently pregnant
- Ever been diagnosed with an STD

Who is at Risk?:

Everyone can get Hepatitis B, high risk populations include:

- Household contacts of infected persons
- Sexual contacts of infected persons
- Men who have sex with men
- International travelers to countries Hep A is common
- Injecting and non-injecting drug users

If you are diagnosed with HBV:

- Be aware that you are infectious to others
- Do not donate blood
- Inform your dental and medical providers
- Inform sexual partners and always use condoms
- Make sure sexual partners and household contacts are immunized against HBV
- Do not share toothbrushes or razors
- Avoid blood exposure to others

For more information, visit:

www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HBV/Index.htm

<http://www.vaccintinformation.org>



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider
Report cases to the Riley County Health Department by calling the Disease Investigation
Line: 785-317-0474

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