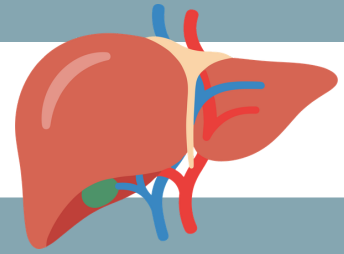


Hepatitis B

Fact Sheet



What is Hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) is a virus that attacks the liver. It can cause both acute and chronic disease.

Symptoms

Symptoms usually start 2-5 months after you've been infected with HBV. Some people may not have any symptoms. Those who do may experience:

- **Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)**
- **Fever**
- **Abdominal pain**
- **Loss of appetite**
- **Dark urine**
- **Vomiting**
- **Fatigue**
- **Joint pain**

Prevention

Know the HBV status of you & your partner. Practice safe sex every time. Obtain body piercings and tattoos from reputable shops. Do not share needles. If you have an accidental exposure, seek immediate care. Pregnant women should receive regular prenatal care and testing. **Talk to your doctor about vaccination.**

How is it spread?

HBV passes from person to person through bodily fluids, such as blood. Common ways the virus is spread include:

- Accidental needlesticks
- Sharing of needles
- Sexual contact
- Mom may pass the virus to their baby during childbirth

Treatment

There is no cure. Most adults clear acute infection naturally; chronic infection can be managed with antivirals. Infants and children are at greatest risk for developing a chronic infection if exposed to HBV.

