



OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

St. Clair County Health Department

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SCCHD-01

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TO: St. Clair County Providers, Hospital
ICPs, Emergency Departments, Walk-in
Clinics, Long Term Care Facilities,
Neurologists, ENT's, OB/GYN,
Pulmonology

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UPDATED HEPATITIS B VIRUS (HBV) TESTING AND SCREENING GUIDANCE:

On March 10th 2023 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated the screening and testing for HBV within the United States. CDC released this information in a morbidity and mortality weekly report (MMWR).

Hepatitis B virus screening and testing recommendations — CDC, 2023:

Universal hepatitis B virus (HBV) screening

- HBV screening at least once during a lifetime for adults aged ≥18 years (new recommendation)
- During screening, test for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg), antibody to HBsAg, and total antibody to HBcAg (total anti-HBc) (new recommendation)

Screening pregnant persons

- HBV screening for all pregnant persons during each pregnancy, preferably in the first trimester, regardless of vaccination status or history of testing*
- Pregnant persons with a history of appropriately timed triple panel screening and without subsequent risk for exposure to HBV (i.e., no new HBV exposures since triple panel screening) only need HBsAg screening

Risk-based testing

- Testing for all persons with a history of increased risk for HBV infection, regardless of age, if they might have been susceptible during the period of increased risk[†]
- Periodic testing for susceptible persons, regardless of age, with ongoing risk for exposures, while risk for exposures persists[†]

* Source: Schillie S, Vellozzi C, Reingold A, et al. Prevention of hepatitis B virus infection in the United States: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR Recomm Rep 2018;67(No. RR-1):1–31.

[†] Susceptible persons include those who have never been infected with HBV (i.e., total anti-HBc negative) and either did not complete a HepB vaccine series per Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations or who are known to be vaccine nonresponders.

The full MMWR can be found here: cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/rr/rr7201a1.htm

Contact **SCCHD** during normal business hours with questions at **810-987-5300**.