

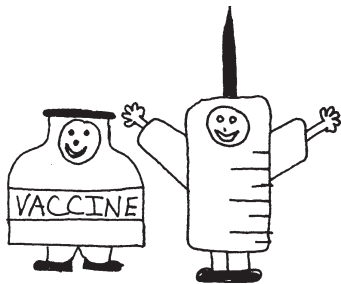
## What if I can't afford to get my children vaccinated?

Vaccinations are usually free for children when families can't afford them. Call the CDC-INFO Contact Center (800) 232-4636 or your local or state health department to find out where you can go for free or low-cost vaccinations. Your children's health depends on it!

## And here's a friendly reminder for parents!

Adults need shots, too! Call your clinic or health department to find out what shots you need or when your next shots are due. Your children are counting on you to stay healthy!

All children  
0-18 years of age  
need hepatitis B  
vaccine!



## Everyone needs vaccinations!

If you can't afford shots or don't know where to get them, contact your local or state health department, or call CDC-INFO at (800) 232-4636.



### Immunization Action Coalition

1573 Selby Avenue, Suite 234  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
(651) 647-9009  
[www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)  
[www.vaccineinformation.org](http://www.vaccineinformation.org)

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) encourages you to make and distribute copies of this brochure. If you alter it, please acknowledge that it was adapted from IAC.

[www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4055.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4055.pdf) • Item #P4055 (8/10)

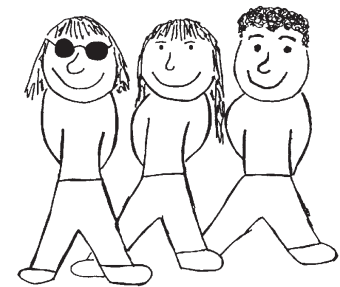
# All kids need hepatitis B shots!



little ones,



medium-sized ones



and big ones, too!

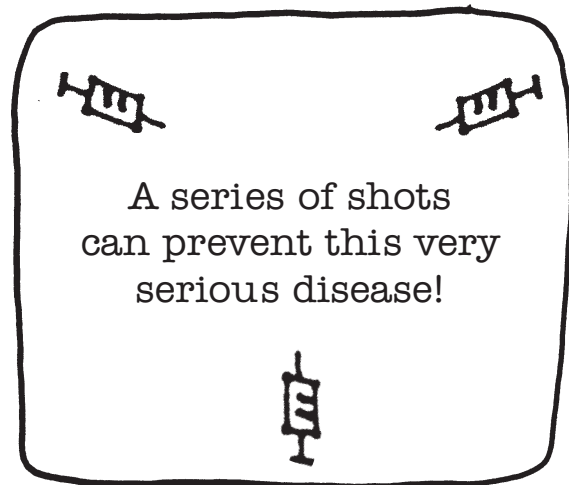
## What is hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus. This virus can enter the bloodstream, attack the liver, and cause severe illness. In some cases, the virus can remain in the body for a lifetime and cause ongoing liver damage.

## How do children and teens get hepatitis B?

Lots of ways. Hepatitis B virus can be spread by:

- coming in contact with an infected person's blood or body fluids
- sharing toothbrushes, razors, or needles of an infected person
- human bites
- sex with an infected person
- ear piercing, body piercing, or tattooing with unsterile equipment



## Why do my children need hepatitis B shots?

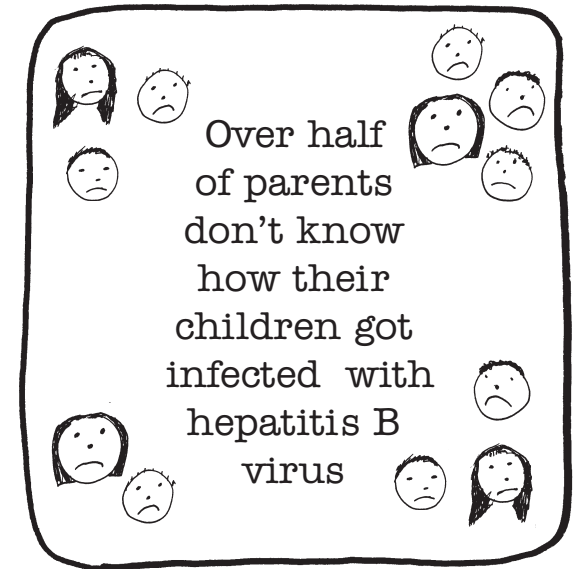
All the major medical organizations in the United States agree that all children 0–18 years of age need a series of hepatitis B shots in order to be protected from this disease. Newborn babies should receive their first shot of hepatitis B vaccine at birth before leaving the hospital. If your children or teens were not vaccinated against hepatitis B when they were younger, vaccinate them now.

## Is my child at increased risk for infection with hepatitis B virus?

Anyone can get infected with this virus. However, children who were born, or whose parents were born, outside the United States where hepatitis B virus infection is a serious problem may be at increased risk for getting infected.

Some of the places where hepatitis B is a serious problem include Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and some parts of South America. Check with your doctor or local health department if you have questions about this.

If you or your children were born in a country where infection with hepatitis B virus is common, your doctor may want to do blood tests on your children to find out if they have already been infected with this virus. Testing can be done at the same visit as vaccinations.



## Should I let my children be vaccinated at school?

Many children are now being offered vaccinations like hepatitis B at school. If your child is being offered the vaccine at school, you can save yourself and your child some trips to the doctor's office!

## How safe is this vaccine?



Hepatitis B vaccine is one of the safest vaccines available. It has been used in the United States since 1982 and has been shown to be safe and effective.