Does the vaccine have side effects?

The most common side effects are mild and might include pain and redness at the injection site. More serious side effects are rare. If you have concerns, ask your healthcare provider.

Where can I get hepatitis B shots?

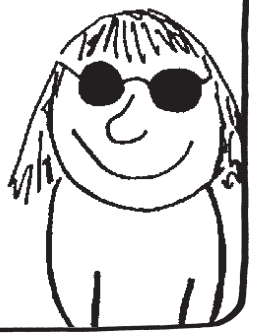
Ask your healthcare provider to vaccinate you against HBV infection. Some school clinics also offer vaccinations. If you don't have a healthcare provider or school clinic or can't afford vaccinations, call your local health department.

Do I need any other shots?

Probably. Vaccines can protect you against many serious diseases like chickenpox, tetanus, measles, meningitis, hepatitis A, and influenza. Ask your healthcare provider to help you figure out which vaccinations you need.

Everyone needs vaccinations!

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



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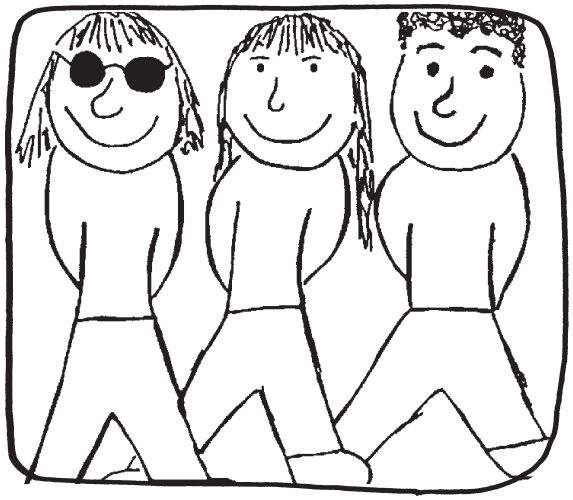
The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) encourages you to make and distribute copies of this brochure. If you alter it, please acknowledge that it was adapted from IAC.

www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4100.pdf • Item #P4100 (8/10)

Every year, thousands of people are infected with hepatitis B virus, including teens



Be sure you're fully vaccinated against this infection!

What is hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a serious liver disease caused by hepatitis B virus (HBV). The virus can enter the blood stream, attack the liver, and cause severe illness — even death. In some cases, the virus can remain in the body for a lifetime and cause ongoing liver damage, including liver cancer.

A.J. was 15 years old when she died of hepatitis B. Her family had big dreams for her. A few simple hepatitis B shots could have saved her life.

How do teens get hepatitis B?

Lots of ways. You can get infected with HBV through contact with an infected person's blood or body fluids. HBV is spread by

- having sex
- sharing personal care items such as toothbrushes, razors, or nail clippers
- getting a tattoo or body piercing with unsterile equipment

You do NOT get infected with HBV from sneezing, coughing, hugging, kissing, or holding hands.

Will I feel really sick if I get hepatitis B?

Different people get different symptoms. You could get very sick (one out of three people do). Your symptoms might include any of the following:

- Yellowish tinged skin and eyes (jaundice)
- A swollen belly that hurts
- Loss of appetite
- Feeling very tired
- A feeling that you want to vomit
- Fever
- Dark-colored urine (cola-colored)
- A rash all over your body

Some infected people never feel sick. They can still infect others and can develop severe liver disease later on. If you think you might have been infected, talk to your healthcare provider.

Do many people get hepatitis B?

Each year in the United States, HBV infects thousands of people — including teens! More than one million people in the United States carry HBV in their blood, and about 3,000 people will die each year from hepatitis B complications.

How do I protect myself against hepatitis B?

If you haven't started or completed the series of hepatitis B shots, get them now! Three shots are usually given over a six-month period. There is also a two-shot series that can be given to 11–15-year-olds.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend hepatitis B vaccine for all children and teens 0–18 years of age.

Protect yourself against hepatitis B. Get vaccinated!

How safe is hepatitis B vaccine?

Hepatitis B vaccine is one of the safest vaccines available. This vaccine has been used in the United States since 1982. It's been given to more than 70 million children and adults in the United States, and more than one billion doses have been given worldwide.