

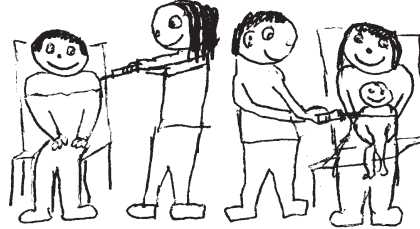
Why does my baby need so many vaccinations?

It's true that little babies get lots of shots which can cause temporary discomfort. But without these vaccines your baby is not protected against whooping cough, meningitis, measles, and other preventable diseases. Like hepatitis B, many of these diseases can result in severe illness, hospitalization, and even death.

Make sure all your children get all their vaccinations on time. Children are our future — we must protect them!

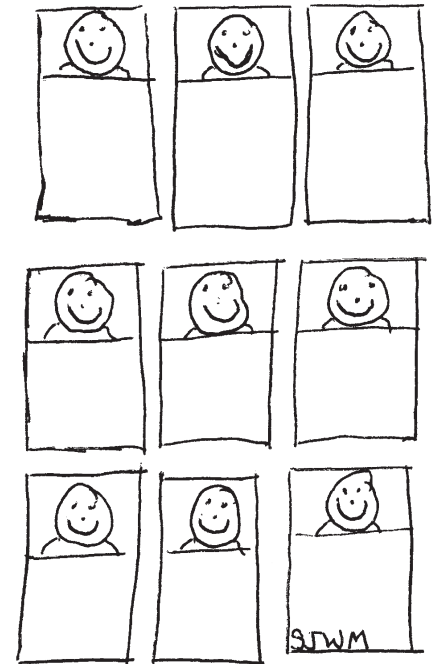
Everyone needs vaccinations!

If you can't afford a clinic visit, call your local health department.



For more information about hepatitis B or how to get your children vaccinated, contact your healthcare provider, your local health department, or call the CDC-INFO Contact Center at (800) 232-4636.

Hepatitis B shots are recommended for all new babies



Hepatitis B vaccine helps protect your newborn baby's future!



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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.

Who says my baby needs hepatitis B vaccination?

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that every newborn be vaccinated against hepatitis B at birth, before hospital discharge. These are the same medical groups that recommend your baby get vaccinated against measles, tetanus, polio, and other serious diseases.

What is hepatitis B?

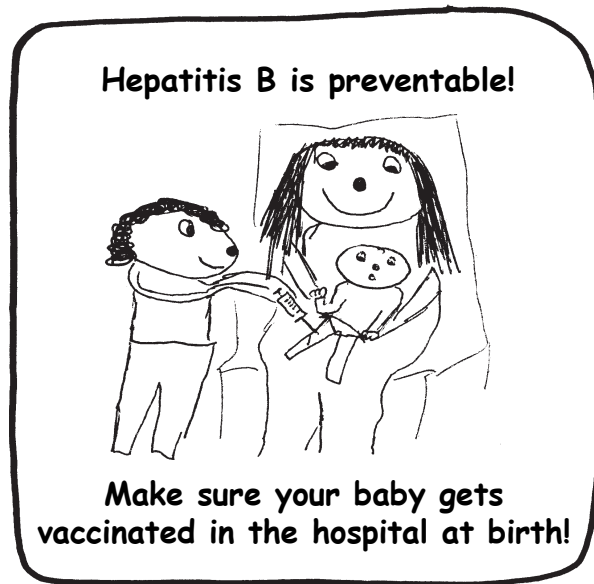
Hepatitis B is a serious disease caused by the hepatitis B virus. The virus can get in the blood and attack the liver. When infants and young children are infected, the virus often stays in the body for many years. This life-long (chronic) infection can cause liver damage, even liver cancer. The good news is that we have a vaccine to prevent hepatitis B. Hepatitis B vaccine is the first vaccine to prevent cancer — liver cancer.

How is hepatitis B virus spread?

Hepatitis B virus is spread by contact with an infected person's blood or certain body fluids. An infected mother can pass the virus to her baby at the time of birth; children can get hepatitis B virus infection by sharing toothbrushes or washcloths of an infected family member or friend; adults who are infected can spread the virus through sexual activity; healthcare professionals can be exposed to the virus in the workplace. The fact is, anyone can become infected with hepatitis B virus.

Why does my baby need hepatitis B shots now?

Hepatitis B vaccine is an investment in your baby's future. This vaccine protects babies from an infection that they might come in contact with at any time in life. Studies show the vaccine offers protection that lasts more than 20 years.



How many people get hepatitis B?

Up to 5% of people in the United States will become infected with hepatitis B virus sometime during their lives. In the United States, more than one million people carry the virus in their blood; worldwide, 360 million people are chronically infected. Approximately 5,000 Americans die from hepatitis B-related liver failure or liver cancer every year.

How many shots are needed to protect my baby?

Three or four, depending on the vaccine your healthcare provider chooses. The first shot is recommended at birth, **before** your baby leaves the hospital. The second shot is given one to two months later, and the third is usually given at six months of age. Four shots may be needed if your baby's healthcare provider uses combination vaccines. If your child misses a shot, continue where you left off — you don't need to start over!

What about my older children?

It's best to start vaccination in infancy so your children are protected as soon as possible. If your older children missed this important vaccination in infancy, ask your healthcare provider to vaccinate them now. Hepatitis B vaccination is recommended for all children and teens ages 0–18 years. The earlier your children and teenagers are vaccinated, the sooner they are protected from this serious disease.

Is this vaccine safe?

Yes. Hepatitis B vaccine has been shown to be very safe when given to infants, children, teens, and adults. More than one billion doses of hepatitis B vaccine have been given worldwide. In the U.S. more than 100 million persons, including infants, children, and adults have received hepatitis B vaccine. The most common side effects from hepatitis B vaccination are soreness at the injection site and mild to moderate fever. Serious side effects are rare.