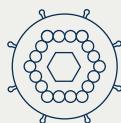


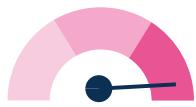
UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS

Getting Hepatitis B vs. Getting Vaccinated



We all want to make the best health choices for our children. So how risky is hepatitis B compared to the vaccines that prevent hepatitis B?

HEPATITIS B FAST FACTS



HOW CONTAGIOUS?

Very contagious. Hepatitis B spreads through contact with blood or other bodily fluids. It is possible to get hepatitis B through casual contact with infected blood, like by sharing washcloths. Moms can also pass it to an infant during childbirth.^{1,2}



HOW SERIOUS?

Typically mild to moderate, if a person has acute (short-term) hepatitis B. However, if it becomes chronic (long-term), then it can be very serious.² Serious complications can include:

Chronic hepatitis B: 9 in 10 infants and 1 in 3 children younger than age 6 who are infected will develop chronic hepatitis B.^{3,4,5}

Death: 1 in 4 people infected during childhood will die prematurely.⁵

Liver failure: In rare cases, acute hepatitis B can also lead to sudden liver failure.^{6,7}



The hepatitis B virus is very resilient and can survive outside the body for at least 7 days.²

VACCINE FAST FACTS



HOW EFFECTIVE?

The vaccines that prevent hepatitis B give people between 80% to 100% protection. When the childhood schedule is followed, the hepatitis B vaccine provides strong protection for years.⁵



HOW SAFE?

Millions of children have safely gotten vaccines to protect against hepatitis B.⁸



SAFETY RECORDS

The hepatitis B vaccines have been used since 1986. Combination vaccines that protect against multiple diseases, including hepatitis B, are also safe and have been used since 2018.^{5,9}



MYTH BUSTER

Are children at risk of hepatitis B? Yes. Less than half of children under 6 who are infected with hepatitis B will recover. Chronic hepatitis B can lead to liver cancer, liver failure, and even death.^{5,10}



Five separate safety systems continuously monitor all vaccines for as long as the vaccines are given.¹¹

Learn more at hhs.gov/immunization/basics/safety/index.html.

COMPARING THE TWO

HEPATITIS B

VACCINES TO PREVENT HEPATITIS B

Common Mild to Moderate Symptoms and Common Side Effects^{1,2,3,5,12}

Common symptoms of hepatitis B last from several weeks to 6 months and can include:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Dark urine or clay-colored poop
- Joint, stomach, and muscle pain

Common side effects of vaccines to prevent hepatitis B are usually mild and last 1–2 days. If side effects occur, they can include:

- Soreness or redness where the vaccine was given
- Low-grade fever

Rare, More Serious Symptoms or Complications and Rare Side Effects^{1,2,3,5,12,13}

Serious symptoms or complications of hepatitis B vary and can include:

- Jaundice
- Severe nausea
- Acute liver failure
- Liver cancer
- Cirrhosis (scarring of the liver)

Serious side effects of vaccines to prevent hepatitis B vary and can include:

- Severe allergic reaction (1 per 600,000 doses of the hepatitis B vaccine)

Sources:

1. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: <https://www.chop.edu/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-details/hepatitis-b-vaccine>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/b/hcp/clinical-overview/>
3. Hepatitis B Foundation: <https://www.hepb.org/what-is-hepatitis-b/what-is-hepb/acute-vs-chronic>
4. World Journal of Hepatology: <https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4550866/>
5. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/pinkbook/hcp/table-of-contents/chapter-10-hepatitis-b.html>
6. Hepatitis B Foundation: <https://www.hepb.org/what-is-hepatitis-b/what-is-hepb/symptoms>
7. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/hbv.htm>
8. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00046738.htm>
9. Immunize.org: <https://www.immunize.org/vaccines/vaccine-timeline>
10. American Academy of Family Physicians: <https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/issues/2019/0301/p314.html>
11. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <https://www.hhs.gov/immunization/basics/safety/index.html>
12. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccine-safety/vaccines/hepatitis-b.html>
13. Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7482909>