

► Hepatitis A and B Vaccine



"Vaccination is good protection"

This vaccine protects you against hepatitis A and B and their complications. Hepatitis A and B are liver infections caused by two different viruses: the hepatitis A virus (HAV) and the hepatitis B virus (HBV).

DISEASES	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B
	Hepatitis A is spread by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with water or food contaminated by the stool of an infected person. <p>Young children infected with hepatitis A will often not have symptoms, but can pass the disease on to those around them.</p>	Hepatitis B is spread by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact of a mucous membrane or cut with the blood, sperm, or vaginal secretions of an infected person.
	Hepatitis A causes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Fatigue • Loss of appetite • Jaundice • Headaches 	Hepatitis B causes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Stomach cramps • Jaundice • Vomiting • Diarrhea
	Possible complications of hepatitis A include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious liver disease • Fatigue lasting several weeks • Death (0.1% to 0.3% of cases) 	Possible complications of hepatitis B include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious liver disease • Chronic liver infection (10% of adults and up to 90% of babies) • Cirrhosis • Liver cancer • Death (1% of cases)

The Vaccine

Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself against hepatitis A and B and their complications. The vaccine is recommended for those who want to reduce their risk of catching hepatitis A or B. Multiple vaccine doses are needed to ensure the best protection possible. This vaccine is not funded in Ontario, but may be purchased.

The hepatitis A and B vaccine is safe. In most cases, it does not cause any undesirable reactions.

Inform your health care provider if you or your child (if your child is receiving this vaccine) have/has an allergy to any vaccine or to latex.

EFFECTS	Possible side effects	What to do
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may experience swelling, redness (10% to 17% of cases), and tenderness (43% of cases) around the injection site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply a cold, damp cloth to the injection site.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vaccine may cause other reactions (0.3% to 10% of cases) such as fever, headaches, discomfort, fatigue, and nausea or vomiting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a fever medication such as acetaminophen if your temperature is 38.5°C or over.
Severe allergic reactions are rare.		

Should a severe allergic reaction occur, it would begin immediately and the person who gave the vaccine will be able to treat it. That's why you should stay on site for at least 15 minutes after the vaccination.

For more information, ask the person who gave you the vaccine or another health care provider.

► Hepatitis B Vaccine



"Vaccination is good protection"

This vaccine protects you against hepatitis B and its complications. Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus.

DISEASES

Hepatitis B is spread by:

- Contact of a mucous membrane or cut with the blood, sperm, or vaginal secretions of an infected person.

Hepatitis B causes:

- Fever
- Stomach cramps
- Jaundice
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

Possible complications of hepatitis B include:

- Serious liver disease
- Chronic liver infection (10% of adults and up to 90% of babies)
- Cirrhosis
- Liver cancer
- Death (1% of cases)

The Vaccine

Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself against hepatitis B and its complications. The vaccine is recommended for those who want to reduce their risk of catching hepatitis B. Multiple vaccine doses are needed to ensure the best protection possible. Hepatitis B vaccine is provided free of charge to 12 year olds (Grade 7 students) and individuals in specific high risk groups. Others may need to purchase the vaccine.

The hepatitis B vaccine is safe. In most cases, it causes no undesirable reactions.

Inform your health care provider if you or your child (if your child is receiving this vaccine) have/has an allergy to any vaccine or to latex.

EFFECTS

Possible side effects

- You may experience swelling, redness, and tenderness (3% to 29% of cases) around the injection site.
- You may run a fever (1% to 6% of cases).
- The vaccine may cause other reactions (under 1% of cases) such as headaches, digestive problems, dizziness, or fatigue.

What to do

- Apply a cold, damp cloth to the injection site.
- Take a fever medication such as acetaminophen if your temperature is 38.5°C or over.
- See a health care provider depending on the seriousness of symptoms.

Severe allergic reactions are rare (1 per 100,000 doses).

Should a severe allergic reaction occur, it would begin immediately and the person who gave the vaccine will be able to treat it. That's why you should stay on site for at least 15 minutes after the vaccination.

For more information, ask the person who gave you the vaccine or another health care provider.