

# Hepatitis B

## HB / Hep B Vaccine



*Don't Wait, Vaccinate!*

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

Diseases	Hepatitis B is spread by:	Symptoms:	Possible complications:
	<p>Direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person (i.e. from an infected mother to her baby at birth, through unprotected sex with an infected person, by sharing equipment for using street drugs, by occupational contact with blood in a health-care setting).</p> <p>Many infected people do not have symptoms but can still pass the virus to others.</p>	<p>Fever Stomach cramps Jaundice Vomiting Diarrhea</p>	<p>Serious liver disease Chronic (long-term) liver infection Cirrhosis Liver cancer Death</p>

Vaccination is the best way to protect against hepatitis B and its complications. The vaccine is recommended for those who want to reduce their risk of catching hepatitis B. More than one vaccine dose is needed to ensure the best protection possible. Hepatitis B vaccine is provided free of charge to 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 does not cause undesirable reactions. Inform your health care provider if you, or the person receiving the vaccine, has an allergy or has experienced a reaction to any vaccine, foods, or latex in the past. The hepatitis B vaccine should not be given if the person has:

- A life-threatening allergy to baker's yeast, or to any other component of the vaccine
- Had a life-threatening allergic reaction to a previous dose of hepatitis B vaccine
- Already been infected with the virus and have had a blood test that shows you are immune
- A fever or anything more serious than a minor cold. You should wait until you recover before receiving the vaccine

Vaccine	Possible side effects:	What to do:
	May experience swelling, redness and tenderness (3%-29% of cases) around the injection site.	Apply a cold, damp cloth to the area.
	May run a fever (1%-6% of cases). Very few people (under 1%) experience reactions such as headache, digestive problems, dizziness, or fatigue.	See a health care provider if symptoms are serious.
Severe allergic reactions are very rare (1 per 100,000 cases). Most severe reactions occur shortly after receiving the vaccine.	It is important to wait 15 minutes after the injection for observation before leaving the clinic. Seek immediate medical attention if experiencing a severe reaction.	

**For more information go to:**

[www.immunize.ca](http://www.immunize.ca)

[www.healthcanada.gc.ca/vaccinate](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/vaccinate)

[www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/services/first-nations-inuit-health/family-health/immunization.html>