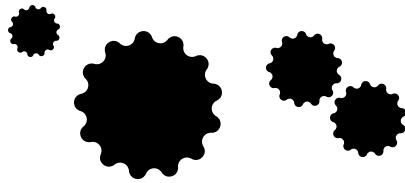


Hepatitis B

Fact Sheet



Hepatitis B is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV).



Hepatitis B spreads when an infected person's blood, semen, or other infected body fluid enters the body of someone who is not infected or has not been vaccinated.

Signs and Symptoms



Fever



Feeling Very Tired



Loss of Appetite



Nausea and Vomiting



Abdominal Pain



Dark Urine

Signs and symptoms of hepatitis B can also include clay-colored stool, joint pain, and jaundice (yellow color in the skin or eyes). Many people do not show any signs or symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they usually start between 8 weeks and 5 months after exposure. Symptoms usually last for several weeks to six months. People with chronic hepatitis B can develop serious liver conditions, like cirrhosis (scarring of the liver) or liver cancer.



Talk to your doctor if you think you have hepatitis B. Hepatitis B is diagnosed with blood tests.

There is no specific treatment for acute hepatitis B. There are several medications available to treat chronic hepatitis B, but there is currently no cure for chronic infection.

Hepatitis B Risk Factors



People Who Use Injection Drugs



People Who Are or Were Incarcerated



People Who May Be Exposed to Blood at Work



People Who Have Multiple Sex Partners



People Who Share Drug Equipment



People Who Were Born to a Mother with Hepatitis B Virus

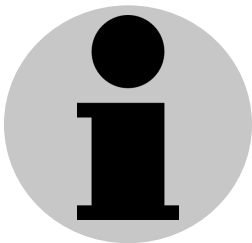
Other risk factors include men who have sex with men, having a sexually transmitted disease, living with a person with chronic hepatitis B, sharing tattooing equipment, being on dialysis, and sharing personal care items or medical equipment.

Prevention



The best way to prevent hepatitis B is by getting a vaccine. There are many different types of hepatitis B vaccine. You need to get all shots in the hepatitis B vaccine series to be fully protected.

For More Information, Visit:



1. www.maine.gov/dhhs/hepatitis
2. www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv

You can also call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.
