



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

FACT SHEET

HEPATITIS B VACCINE FOR BABIES

What is hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is an infection of the liver, caused by a virus. Most people who get hepatitis B recover completely. Some carry the infection for life and are called carriers. Carriers may pass on the infection to other people. They may also get liver damage or liver cancer.

Can hepatitis affect my baby?

Yes. Babies whose mothers are carriers may be infected during birth and also may become carriers. Doctors in Ontario test all pregnant women for hepatitis B. If you are a carrier, a vaccine can protect your baby from infection.

When should my baby get the hepatitis B vaccine?

If you are a carrier your baby will get one needle at birth, one needle at a month of age and a third needle at six months of age. A special needle called immune globulin is also given when your baby is born.

Is the hepatitis B vaccine safe?

Yes. Some babies may have mild pain, swelling or redness where the needle was given. A few get a slight fever or upset stomach.

Source: Adapted from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Immunization Fact Sheet

Can others in my family get hepatitis B?

Yes. It protects children, teenagers and adults from getting hepatitis B. If you are a carrier, your sexual partner and other people who live in your home are also eligible for the vaccine.

Who should not get the Hepatitis B vaccine?

Children with the following conditions should not receive this vaccine:

- Children ill with a fever or infection worse than a common cold.
- Children who have had serious allergic reaction to the vaccine or something in the vaccine
- Anaphylaxis to Hepatitis B vaccine

When should I call my health care provider?

Call your health care provider right away or go to the nearest emergency room if your baby has any of these signs after getting a needle:

- hives
- swelling of face and mouth
- trouble breathing
- very pale colour and serious drowsiness
- high fever (over 40 C or 104 F)
- convulsions or seizures

Who can I call for more information?

For more information, talk to your health care provider or contact Renfrew County & District Health Unit Immunization Information Line at **613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004**.

How do I keep track of this vaccination?

After you or your child gets any immunization, make sure the personal immunization record, such as your "Yellow Card", is updated. Keep it in a safe place!

To contact us or for more information



613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004



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