



FACT SHEET

HEPATITIS B VACCINE

Hepatitis B is a vaccine that protects individuals of all ages from a liver infection cause by the hepatitis B virus.

When is the vaccine given?

Part of [Ontario's Routine Immunization schedule](#), this vaccine is part of the grade 7 school Immunization program and is offered during school clinics.

Schedule is a 2 adult doses series at 4 to 6 months apart.

Individuals of all ages who are considered high risk are also eligible to receive this vaccine for free.

Babies whose mother are carriers will get vaccinated with 3 doses series. First vaccine at birth, 1 month and at 6 months of age. A special needle called immune globulin is also given when your baby is born.

School clinic schedule

Vaccine type	Dose1	Dose 2
Meningococcal	Fall	Not required
Hepatitis B	Fall	Spring
Human Papilloma Virus	Fall	Spring

What is Hepatitis B?

It is a liver infection caused by a virus that causes permanent damage. There is no medication to treat or cure for this virus. Vaccination is the best way to protect and prevent from getting infected with the diseases. Hepatitis B interferes with the liver's ability to digest food and help to remove waste products from the body. It is the biggest cause of liver cancer worldwide.

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.

What are symptoms?

People with the disease often become tired, feverish, lose their appetite and sometimes get yellow skin and eyes (called jaundice).

However, some people can get the virus and not have any signs or symptoms; this means that they can infect someone else and not know it. Ten percent of people carry the virus for life and will keep infecting other people. Some will continue to have liver issues for the rest of their lives.

How do you get infected with Hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B spreads through blood and other body fluids from an infected person. Examples would include:

- Unprotected sexual intercourse
- Used needles, tattooing with dirty equipment.
- Shared razors
- Body/ear piercing
- Babies from the mother carrier

Health care and emergency service workers can get it from needle stick injuries, blood splashes on broken skin, in the eyes, nose or mouth.

Continue on reverse

Who should not get the vaccine?

Anyone who had an allergic reaction to the vaccine or any of the component
Anyone with a fever or infection worse than a common cold.

Is the vaccine safe?

Yes, most individuals will have no side effects from the vaccine; however, it may cause soreness, redness or slight swelling at the site the vaccine was given. Headache, irritability, and fatigue may occur in some cases. Severe reactions are extremely rare.

When do I call my healthcare provider?

Seek immediate medical help if any of the following symptoms develop within 3 days of getting the vaccine:









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

Why is it important to keep a record?

Vaccination is the best way to protect you child from serious diseases. Although this vaccine not required by law, as stated in the [Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990 \(ISPA\)](#) and the [Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 \(CCEYA\)](#), it is still highly recommended and could be required later for certain post secondary school programs. Families need to report immunization records to their local public health unit to ensure that all students received the required vaccines.

After any vaccination, make sure your personal immunization record, your "[Yellow Card](#)", is updated. Keep it in a safe place!

How do I report my vaccination to RCDHU?

Ways to report Immunization Records	
	Visit www.rcdhu.com Immune Immune
	 Report Immunization here accordion
 Online	Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON)
 Email	immunization@rcdhu.com
 Fax	613-735-3067
 mail	141 Lake Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5L8
For More Information	
 call	613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004
 	@RCDHealthunit

Always include Client's legal name and date of birth on the records you are submitting. The health card number is highly recommended to help us identify the right client file.

Source: Adapted from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care

Visit our website at www.rcdhu.com

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

