

How can I protect my child from hepatitis B?



DURING PREGNANCY

- Get a hepatitis B test during your first trimester.
- If you test negative and never had the vaccine, you can get vaccinated to protect yourself and your baby.
- If you test positive, you can still have a healthy pregnancy while taking steps to prevent transmission.



AT BIRTH

- The best protection is giving your baby the hepatitis B vaccine in the delivery room or within 12-24 hours of birth.
- If you are living with hepatitis B or are unsure of your status, your baby may also need HBIG at birth to help protect them. Your care team can help make sure this is given.
- After the first dose, complete the vaccine series with a second dose at 1-2 months, and a third dose at 6-18 months.



OLDER CHILDREN

- It is never too late for your child to get the hepatitis B vaccine.
- Children ages 18 and younger who missed earlier doses should still be vaccinated.
- Ask your child's pediatrician about completing the vaccine series.

References:

1. American Academy of Pediatrics. (2026). Recommendation Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for Ages 18 Years or Younger. <https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf>.
2. The Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. (2025). Hepatitis B: The Disease & Vaccines. <https://www.chop.edu/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-details/hepatitis-b-vaccine>
3. Mcintosh, E. D. G., & Bek, M. D. (1997). Horizontal transmission of hepatitis B in a children's day-care centre: a preventable event. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 21(7), 791-792.