HEPATITIS B

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

In recent years, more people are becoming newly infected with hepatitis B, a disease that affects the liver and can cause health complications.

These rising infections of hepatitis B are tied to the opioid epidemic in the U.S.

36% of new hepatitis B infections occur among people who inject drugs.

HEPATITIS B CAN BE MORE DANGEROUS

If you also have HEPATITIS C OR HIV

WHAT IS HEPATITIS B?

Hepatitis B is a virus that attacks the liver. Infections can be newer and short-lived (acute) or lifelong (chronic).

If left undiagnosed, a chronic infection can lead to scarring of the liver (cirrhosis) or even liver cancer over time.

COULD YOU BE INFECTED?

Most people don’t have any symptoms

A simple blood test can tell if you are infected

WHO IS AT RISK?

People who come into direct contact with infected blood, share needles, inject drugs, are exposed to unsafe dental or medical procedures

People with many sexual partners

People who have unprotected sex

People who are from countries where hepatitis B is highly endemic (dark blue regions on the map)

IF YOU ARE AT RISK:

Ask your doctor to test you for hepatitis B, and about getting the hepatitis B vaccine if you're not protected

THE VACCINE CAN PROTECT YOU AGAINST HEPATITIS B FOR LIFE!

IF YOU ARE INFECTED:

Managing your hepatitis B is important!

Try to see a doctor knowledgable about hepatitis B every 6 months to check up on the virus and prevent liver damage

Hep B United is a national coalition led by the Hepatitis B Foundation to address and eliminate hepatitis B, a serious liver infection that is the leading cause of liver cancer.

www.hepbunited.org • info@hepb.org • 215-489-4900

Updated September 2021