

PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM HEPATITIS B TODAY, PREVENT LIVER CANCER TOMORROW

Early exposure to hepatitis B can lead to liver cancer, but it can be prevented.

Hepatitis B is a serious infection that can damage the liver over time and lead to cirrhosis or liver cancer. It spreads through direct contact with infected blood and is most commonly passed from mother to child during birth.










Young children often get small cuts or open sores from everyday situations like teething, diaper rash, irritated gums during feeding, or even sports-related injuries. These openings in the skin can allow hepatitis B to enter the body. Because many people, including caregivers and other children, do not know they are living with hepatitis B, infected blood can be present without anyone realizing it.

Even a tiny amount of this blood entering an open cut or sore can lead to lifelong infection - even if you can't see it.



U.S. Infant Hepatitis B Vaccine Schedules

For infants < 1 year of age

Vaccine	Dose 1 "Birth Dose"	Dose 2	Dose 3	Dose 4
 3-dose vaccine series Brand names: Engerix-B, Recombivax HB	Within 24 hours of birth 	1 month after dose 1 	6 months after dose 1 	
 4-dose combination vaccine series (pentavalent or hexavalent) Brand names: Vaxelis, Pediarix	Within 24 hours of birth (Hepatitis B vaccine) 	6 weeks of age (Combination vaccine) 	14 weeks of age (Combination vaccine) 	6 months of age (Combination vaccine) 

Key

 = Monovalent hepatitis B vaccine (protection against hepatitis B only)

 = Combination vaccine (protection against hepatitis B + other diseases)

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.