

Childhood Vaccines

Caregiver Information

At Eisner Health, your baby's health is our top priority.



What is the hepatitis B vaccine, and who needs it?

The hepatitis B vaccine protects against hepatitis B, a liver disease.

- Hepatitis B can be a serious liver disease. There are two types: acute and chronic.
- Acute hepatitis B infection is a short term illness that can cause fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and jaundice (yellow skin or eyes, dark urine, clay colored bowel movements).
- Chronic hepatitis B infection is a long-term illness that does not have symptoms but can lead to liver damage, liver cancer, and death. Infected people can spread hepatitis B to others even if they do not look or feel sick.
- Receiving the vaccine protects your baby against contracting hepatitis B later on in life and potentially passing it onto their own children.



Children should get either two, three or four doses of the hepatitis B vaccine, depending on the brand of vaccine. Infants get their first dose at birth and usually complete their shots at 6 to 18 months.

How does hepatitis B spread?

Hepatitis B is transmitted when blood, semen or another body fluid from a person infected with HBV enters the body of someone who is not infected. This can happen through sexual contact; by sharing needles, syringes or other drug-injection equipment; or from mother to baby at birth.

Hepatitis B **is not** spread through breastfeeding, sharing eating utensils, hugging, kissing, holding hands, coughing or sneezing.

I don't know anybody who has had hepatitis B. Does my baby need this vaccine?

YES

- Hepatitis B affects approximately 300 million people worldwide, including over 6 million children under the age of 5.
- Hepatitis B contributes to an estimated 820,000 deaths every year, with 25% of chronic hepatitis B infections progressing to liver cancer.

The reason you don't typically see hepatitis B is because so many children are vaccinated against it. While many diseases have virtually disappeared in the United States because of vaccination, they are common in other parts of the world. If we stop vaccinating against these diseases, they can reemerge.

Receiving vaccines is an important part of a child's health.

Vaccines give your child the antibodies they need to fight off serious diseases. As a parent or caregiver, we want you to feel confident about making the choice to protect your child.

Please talk with your provider if you have any questions about vaccinations.

