



Living With Diabetes? Get Vaccinated Against Hepatitis B

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends hepatitis B vaccine for appropriate unvaccinated patients with diabetes. Learn more about how you can help prevent hepatitis B infection through vaccination.

According to the CDC, 850,000 to 2.2 million people have chronic hepatitis in the United States. People living with diabetes have higher rates of hepatitis B than the general population. The best way to help protect yourself from the hepatitis B virus is to get vaccinated.

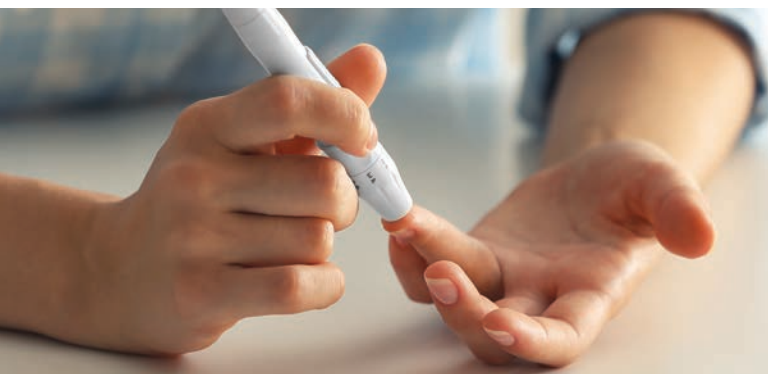
What Is Hepatitis B?

- Hepatitis B is a contagious liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus.
- At first, an acute infection develops. An acute infection is a short-term illness that occurs within the first 6 months after exposure to the hepatitis B virus. Some people can fight the virus and clear the infection.
- For others, the infection remains and leads to a chronic, long-term illness. Over time, this can cause serious damage to the liver and lead to complications, including liver failure, cancer, and death.



How Is Hepatitis B Spread?

- Hepatitis B is spread through contact with the blood or other body fluids of someone infected with the virus.
- People living with diabetes are at an increased risk for hepatitis B if they share blood glucose meters, fingerstick devices, or other diabetes care equipment, such as syringes or insulin pens.



CDC Recommendations for Hepatitis B Vaccination

- Hepatitis B vaccination should be given to unvaccinated adults with diabetes who are between 19 and 59 years old.
- At the discretion of a healthcare provider, hepatitis B vaccination may be given to unvaccinated adults with diabetes who are 60 years of age and older.
- The hepatitis B vaccination series should be completed as soon as possible after you've been diagnosed with diabetes or if you are unvaccinated and have been diagnosed with diabetes in the past.

Talk to Your Pharmacist About Getting Vaccinated

The hepatitis B vaccine is given as a series of 3 doses over a period of 6 months. Talk to your pharmacist to find out if hepatitis B vaccination is right for you. Learn more about hepatitis B at HelpPreventHepatitis.com.

