

# CDRS

Communicable Disease Reporting System

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FACT SHEET

## HEPATITIS B

Hepatitis B is a viral infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis B virus.

### Symptoms

There may be no symptoms or you may have:

- Jaundice (yellow eyes or skin)
- Fatigue (feeling tired)
- Muscle aches
- Abdominal pain
- Nausea/ Vomiting

### Transmission

- Blood transfusion/ Hemodialysis
- Sexual Intercourse
- Sharing needles/ Cocaine straws
- Tattoos / Body piercing, especially home tattoos
- Handling contaminated blood
- Sharing toothbrushes, razors, etc.
- From mother to child during birth

### Treatment

- Make an appointment with a doctor to be checked
- Take medicine from your doctor
- Get vaccinated against Hepatitis A
- Do not drink alcohol
- Do not take medications (including over-the-counter medicines like acetaminophen) unless your doctor says it's OK

### Prevention

- Refrain from sex or use condoms
- Do not share needles, razors, toothbrushes, cocaine straws, etc.
- Tell you close contacts to get vaccinated against Hepatitis B and teach them about the disease
- If you or your sexual partner are pregnant contact the health department for additional information and testing.

### Additional Information

Who should get hepatitis B vaccine?

- All babies and children 19 years of age or younger.
- Gay and bisexual men.
- Anyone with more than one sex partner in a 6-month period.
- Illicit drug users (injection and non-injection).
- International travelers to areas where hepatitis B is common (includes all areas of the world except Canada, Western Europe & Scandinavia, New Zealand & Australia)
- Health care and public safety workers with exposure to blood in the workplace.
- Persons with chronic liver disease, including hepatitis C.
- Household contacts and sexual partners of persons with hepatitis B.
- Persons born in countries with high rates of hepatitis B and their family members.

**All information is general in nature and is not intended to be used as a substitute for appropriate professional advice.**

Franklin County



Board of Health

Report Disease With Ease - 24 hours a day

[www.cdrsinfo.com](http://www.cdrsinfo.com)

Columbus and Franklin County Communicable Disease Reporting System

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