What can I do to protect my baby from hepatitis B?

First, have a blood test to see if you have hepatitis B. Your doctor or clinic should test you at your first prenatal visit and at delivery.

Second, have your baby vaccinated for hepatitis B at birth.

What if I have hepatitis B?

- Be sure to tell the nurses and doctors at the hospital where you have your baby.
- Make sure your baby is vaccinated at birth.

Time	Infant born to mother with hepatitis B should receive
At birth	birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG)
1 month	2nd dose of hepatitis B vaccine
6 months	3rd dose of hepatitis B vaccine

Three months after the last vaccine, your baby should have a blood test to make sure the vaccine worked.

- Breastfeeding is safe for your baby. Hepatitis B is not transmitted through breast milk.
- Even if you don't have hepatitis B, your baby should still receive the Hep B vaccine series to protect him or her in the future.

Hepatitis B vaccine is safe for your baby. Getting the vaccine series can protect your baby for life.

For more information regarding perinatal hepatitis B, please contact your local health department or

TEXAS Department of State Health Services

Physical Address:
Texas Department of State Health Services
Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program
1100 West 49th Street, MC 1939
Austin, Texas 78756-3199

Mailing Address:
Texas Department of State Health Services
Infectious Disease Intervention and Control Branch
Attn: Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program
Mail Code 1939
P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347

www.TexasPerinatalHepB.org
Tel: 512-458-7447
Fax: 512-458-7787

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Hep B

Hepatitis B Vaccine Can Save Your Baby's Life

What is hepatitis B?

It is a dangerous virus that attacks the liver. Your liver helps your body digest food and get rid of poisons. Hepatitis B can cause liver disease, cancer, and death.

How does it spread?

Hepatitis B virus is spread by contact with blood or body fluids from an infected person. You can get hepatitis B by:

- Having unprotected sex
- Sharing needles and syringes
- Having contact with blood or open sores
- Sharing razors, toothbrushes, or washcloths
- Using unsterilized needles in body piercing and tattooing

How can my baby get hepatitis B?

- Contact with your blood and body fluids at the time of birth.
- Contact with blood and body fluids through breaks in the skin such as bites, cuts, or sores.
- Contact with objects that could have blood or body fluids on them, such as toothbrushes or washcloths.

Hepatitis B is not spread by:

- Sneezing or coughing
- Kissing or hugging
- Breastfeeding
- Eating food or drinking water
- Sharing eating utensils or drinking glasses

How do I know if I have hepatitis B?

The only way to know is by having a blood test done during pregnancy and at delivery by your health care provider. Your contacts and all other household members should also be tested.

Is there a cure for hepatitis B?

If you have hepatitis B, ask your doctor or health care provider about treatment options. The best thing to do about hepatitis B is to prevent it, for you and for your baby.

Protect Your Baby from Hepatitis B *for* Life