



## GET VACCINATED TO PROTECT AGAINST HBV

### How do I pay for vaccines?

Most health care plans cover recommended vaccines. Check with your insurance plan or health care provider. You may qualify for free or low-cost vaccines through the 317-funded adult program. For more information, scan the QR code below for the 317 Provider Search Tool.

SCAN ME !



## For More Information

New Jersey Department of Health  
[nj.gov/health/vaccines](https://nj.gov/health/vaccines)  
[bit.ly/4drSuKb](https://bit.ly/4drSuKb)

Local Health Department  
[localhealth.nj.gov](https://localhealth.nj.gov)

Federally Qualified Health Centers  
[bit.ly/4tcesW9](https://bit.ly/4tcesW9)

Hepatitis B Foundation  
[hepb.org](https://hepb.org)

317 Provider Search Tool  
[bit.ly/4ncUoSh](https://bit.ly/4ncUoSh)

Follow us on social media  
**@NJDeptofHealth:**  
Facebook, Instagram, Threads, X,  
LinkedIn, and YouTube



# Hepatitis B



## Information for Older Adults

New Jersey Department of Health  
Communicable Disease Service  
Vaccine Preventable Disease Program

PO Box 369  
Trenton, NJ  
609-826-4861





## What is Hepatitis B (HBV)?

- HBV is a liver virus. It can be a short- or long-term illness, and often, there are no symptoms. If there are, you may feel tired, sick, or have yellow skin or eyes.
- Most people recover, but some develop a long-term infection that can harm the liver or cause cancer.

## How is it spread?

HBV spreads through infected blood and body fluids. This includes:

- having unprotected sex
- sharing personal items (e.g., razors, toothbrushes, glucose meters)

An infected person could spread it to their baby during birth.

It does not spread through food, water, coughing, sneezing, or casual contact like hugging or kissing.

- If you or someone at home has HBV, keep cuts covered to avoid spreading it. Household members and sexual partners should get tested and vaccinated if they're not protected.
- If you think you've been exposed (e.g., needle stick, blood contact), seek medical care quickly

**Don't Share  
Personal Items!**  
**Use Your Own to  
Help Prevent HBV**

## How do I prevent HBV?

The best way to prevent HBV is to get the hepatitis B vaccine series recommended for:

- All children from birth to 18
- Adults ages 19–59
- Adults 60+ who are at higher risk or want protection

You can also lower your risk by using condoms or other latex barriers and not sharing personal items.