**Hepatitis B**

Vaccination is the best protection against Hepatitis B infection. In Victoria a free Hepatitis B vaccine is available for a number of groups at high risk including, but not limited to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, refugee and humanitarian entrants, men who have sex with men, people living with HIV, people living with [hepatitis C](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/hepatitis-c) and people from high prevalence countries.

The adult course involves 3 doses of the vaccine over 6 months and gives protection to about 95% of people. Once you have had the 3 doses, you can have a blood test to see if you are protected.

​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​Hepatitis B vaccine for babies​

About 90% of babies who become infected with Hepatitis B at birth or soon after will develop Hepatitis B for life. ​​​​​​​​​​

​Hepatitis B vaccine protects babies long-term. The vaccine is free for babies.

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All babies are offered the Hepatitis B vaccine at birth to: ​

* Help prevent the spread of the disease from an infected mother to her baby
* Prevent the spread of the disease to an infant from infected people. For example, those who live in the same house or others who might be infected.

It’s recommended that all babies are vaccinated against Hepatitis B at birth (within 24 hours of being born).

Babies should also receive Hepatitis B vaccine at 6 weeks, 4 months and 6 months of age.

It is essential that the full course of Hepatitis B vaccines is completed for long term protection.

Babies can still be breastfed as they receive their Hepatitis B vaccine doses.

All vaccines given to children in Australia are tested to make sure they are safe and effective.

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Babies born to Hepatitis B positive mothers

​​A baby born to a mother who has tested positive for Hepatitis B needs another injection at birth, called ‘Hepatitis B immunoglobulin’, as well as their Hepatitis B vaccination, to prevent hepatitis B. A baby born to a mother who has tested positive for Hepatitis B will still need to have 3 more Hepatitis B vaccine doses to make sure that they don’t get hepatitis B. They also need a blood test 3-12 months after completing the vaccination course to check they are protected.

Parents or a carer should speak to their healthcare provider for more information and advice.

A pregnant woman who has Hepatitis B may be recommended to have treatment during pregnancy to reduce the risk of transmitting Hepatitis B to their baby. Anyone who is pregnant who knows that they have Hepatitis B should tell their doctor about their Hepatitis B infection.