



For more information

For information on immunizations and the Vaccine For Children Program

Call 800-798-1696

Website:

dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Immunization/Pages/Home.aspx

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Hepatitis B Immunization

Why you should protect your baby

Did you know?

Without intervention, 90% of babies born to mothers with hepatitis B will have life-long hepatitis B infections. 25% of those will die prematurely of liver cancer or cirrhosis of the liver.



A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair, seen from the side, gently kissing a baby on the forehead. The baby is wearing a white onesie and has its eyes closed. The background is a soft, light green gradient.

What is hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B disease is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus. It can become a lifelong infection that can cause severe illness, liver cancer and even death.

Babies are less able to fight the disease than older people and often do not show symptoms of disease.

How is hepatitis B spread?

The hepatitis B virus is spread by contact with blood or body fluids that contain the virus.

This includes mother's blood and body fluids from birth, items that could have blood or body fluids on them such as toothbrushes and razors, and through unprotected sex.

In many parts of the world hepatitis B is very common: China, other parts of Asia, southern parts of eastern

and central Europe, northern South America, most Pacific Islands, and Africa.

How can I protect my baby from hepatitis B?

There is a vaccine available to protect your baby from hepatitis B. The vaccine has been given to children in the United States for over 30 years. There have been over one billion doses given worldwide. It is recommended that the first dose be given before discharge from the hospital. The other two doses are usually given at 1-2 months of age and at 6-18 months of age. The three dose series will give your baby a lifetime of protection against hepatitis B.

Resources

www.cdc.gov/vaccines

www.immunize.org

www.aap.org