



What is Hepatitis B?

- An infection of the liver (swelling and tenderness) caused by the Hepatitis B virus

What are symptoms that could occur?

- Some people have no symptoms
- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal pain
- Fatigue
- Nausea/diarrhea
- Joint pain
- Swelling and tenderness of the liver
- Yellowing of skin and eyes
- Dark urine, light colored stools
- Fever

How is it spread?

When blood or body fluids enter a person through:

- Sexual activity
- Intravenous drug use (sharing needles)
- Symptoms begin between six weeks to six months after exposure with an average of 2-3 months
- People are contagious several weeks before symptoms appear and while the virus is in their body
- Needle sticks or work exposure
- Unborn babies from infected mother

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation and laboratory testing
- Treatment is aimed at relief of symptoms

How can Hepatitis B be prevented?

- Immunization with Hepatitis B vaccine is effective prevention, requires a 3 dose series with specific spacing
- Practice safe sex
- Don't share needles, toothbrushes, razors, nail clippers or other personal items
- Avoid direct contact with another person's blood or bodily fluids
- Post exposure: HBIG administration from medical provider and hepatitis B vaccine

Are there complications?

- 90% of people infected recover without complications; 10% remain carriers of the virus over their lifetime, therefore remain infectious
- Carriers can develop cirrhosis of the liver or liver cancer

Should the sick individual be isolated?

- No, unless the child has wounds or sores that could put others in contact with the child's blood

Should facilities do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended.

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-1017