

# Hepatitis: Type B

(caused by hepatitis B virus)

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal discomfort
- Yellow eyes and skin
- Dark urine or light-color stool
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fatigue
- Pain in muscles and joints
- Begin 45-180 days after exposure

## TRANSMISSION

Hepatitis B is spread by:

- Vaginal sex
- Anal sex
- Oral sex
- Sharing needles for injecting drugs, body piercing or tattooing
- Infected mother to newborn
- Sharing personal items that may have blood or bodily fluids on them (razors, tooth brushes, nail clippers, pierced earrings)

## COMPLICATIONS

- Can spread to sex partners
- Can lead to chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, liver cancer and death
- Infected mother can pass virus to newborn.
- Infected baby may become a chronically infected.
- Can infect others while in both acute and chronic phases.
- Less than 1% of people die during the acute phase of infection.

## PREVENTION

- Hepatitis B vaccine is recommended for all infants, adolescents and sexually active adults.
- Don't share needles for drugs, tattooing or piercing.
- Avoiding vaginal, oral or anal sex is the best way to prevent STDs.
- Latex condoms, when used consistently and correctly, can reduce the risk of transmission of hepatitis B.
- Always use latex condoms during vaginal and anal sex.
- Use a latex condom for oral sex on a penis.
- Use a latex barrier (dental dam or condom cut in half) for oral sex on a vagina or anus.
- Limit the number of sex partners.
- Don't share personal items like razors.
- When infant is born to an infected mother, immunize infant at birth.

## TESTING AND TREATMENT

- Get a test from a medical provider if infection is suspected.
- Hepatitis B immune globulin injection given within 7 days after blood exposure or 14 days after sexual contact; vaccine may also be recommended.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Minnesota Department of Health  
 STD and HIV Section  
 (651) 201-5414; (651) 201-5797 TTY  
[www.health.state.mn.us/std](http://www.health.state.mn.us/std)

Minnesota Family Planning and STD Hotline  
 1-800-783-2287 Voice/TTY; (651) 645-9360 (Metro)  
[www.sexualhealthmn.org](http://www.sexualhealthmn.org)

American Social Health Association (ASHA)  
[www.ashastd.org](http://www.ashastd.org)

CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines  
 1-800-CDC-INFO; 1-888-232-6348 TTY  
[www.cdc.gov/std](http://www.cdc.gov/std)

